

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

SPRING/SUMMER 2015

UTEP

MAGAZINE

BRIDGING THE GAP

UTEP's innovative strategies are helping low-income students navigate their journey from college student to college graduate.



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



UTEP's successful Centennial year has ended, but one important legacy of the celebration will stay with us far into the future, making it possible for even more talented students to pursue their dreams through enhanced higher education opportunities on our campus.

That legacy derives from our dedicated and forward-looking alumni and friends – all of you! – who so generously contributed more than \$226 million to the University's Centennial Campaign. Although our Campaign total is impressive, the actual impact of your gifts is beyond measure. From 213 new endowments for scholarships, fellowships, faculty positions, and research and program support, to more than \$21 million in capital support and nearly \$22 million in planned gifts with future impact, UTEP students will be the primary beneficiaries of your generosity for generations to come. You can read more about these exciting Campaign outcomes on pages 14 and 15.

Your gifts are more important than ever now, as philanthropy becomes a critical component of all public universities' success in serving their students. When I became UTEP's president 27

years ago, the University relied on two primary sources of funding: legislative appropriations and tuition and fees. Legislative appropriations, which then accounted for nearly 70 percent of UTEP's annual revenues, have declined in recent years, and now comprise only 24 percent. Although we've had to increase tuition and fees, we recognized that trying to raise them sufficiently to offset the decline in state appropriations would make UTEP inaccessible to many of the students we are here to serve, for whom affordability is a major factor in their pursuit of higher education. So, UTEP's net price to students today is intentionally the lowest of all U.S. research universities.

In the face of growth constraints on both state appropriations and tuition and fees, UTEP has successfully explored other avenues of financial support, including externally funded research, which has increased significantly to 40 percent of our annual revenues today.

The second major source of growing external support at UTEP is philanthropy. Generous alumni and friends like you provide critical funding for academic and athletic program enhancements and such capital investments as our Campus Transformation projects. To ensure that UTEP graduates are fully prepared to compete with their peers in more affluent settings, they must have access to up-to-date facilities and equipment, as well as the expertise of faculty who are leaders in their fields. Philanthropy helps make all that possible.

Scholarship gifts transform students' lives. They validate our students' talent and build their confidence in making a decision to pursue a university degree, and they greatly increase the probability of students successfully completing their degrees and pursuing professional careers or continuing on to graduate or professional schools.

Philanthropic support also enhances UTEP's capacity to create a solid pathway to foster students' progress from initial enrollment to graduation. The national spotlight is now on UTEP's noteworthy success in increasing efficient degree completion among students who, because of the daunting life challenges they must often confront, are considered "high risk" in most other university settings. You can read more about the ways UTEP supports students' progress to graduation in the story that begins on page 26.

UTEP's future is bright, thanks to the commitment and support of the Miner Nation. We are deeply grateful to each and every one of the 26,449 individuals, families, foundations, organizations and corporations whose Centennial Campaign contributions have helped UTEP fulfill its mission of access and excellence and move confidently toward its goal of becoming the first national research university serving a 21st century student demographic.

Go Miners!

Diana Natalicio • UTEP President



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO
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Photo by J.R. Hernandez

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Whether it's running across the basketball court, serving in a leadership role with the Student Government Association, spending time with other Miner Village residents, or taking advantage of law school preparation opportunities, Marissa Rodriguez is one of many Miners whose experiences outside the classroom are equally as important as their final grades.

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Illustration by Adan Contreras '13



Spring Reflection

March 3, 2015

Photo by Ivan Pierre Aguirre





UTEP Programs Keep Older Adults Mentally, Physically Fit

By Daniel Perez • Photos by Laura Trejo

More than 200 older adults are registered for Physical Fitness in the Golden Age, one of the programs The University of Texas at El Paso oversees to help seniors maintain their mental and physical well being.

When UTEP alumnus Salvador Canchola retired from public service in 2001, he pictured a life of “honey do’s” around his West El Paso home. Today, he mixes his carpentry and gardening with frequent visits to The University of Texas at El Paso.

Canchola is among more than 700 individuals enrolled in UTEP programs that help the region’s older adults maintain their mental, financial and physical well-being.

The number and scope of the programs have expanded through the past 50 years to accommodate the needs and growing number of senior citizens. Recent U.S. Census Bureau figures show about 83,000 people ages 65 and older reside in El Paso County and those numbers are expected to increase during the next 40 years.

Research shows that people who exercise their brains and bodies enjoy longer, healthier and more productive lives. Programs such as the Estate Planning Conference for Women, the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI), and Physical Fitness in the Golden Age play important roles in the lives of older adults.

Canchola, a former public housing official, has been a faithful OLLI student and lecturer for 10 years. He said he enjoys the opportunities to meet new people and engage in open discussions, especially when he’s teaching about events in the 1950s and ‘60s.

“(Students will) challenge you on the facts, but it makes the discussions more authentic,” he said after a recent OLLI class in genealogy.

OLLI is open to people ages 50 and older who pay a one-time \$25 lifetime membership fee and \$70 per semester for unlimited courses. The institute registers approximately 435 students per semester who select from more than 100 courses in arts, languages, politics, history, dance and more. The institute’s six-week summer session starts June 1 with almost all classes taking place in Miners Hall.

University President Diana Natalicio initiated the institute’s idea in 1988 and worked with a group of dedicated, retired volunteers to open OLLI, then called the Center for Lifelong Learning, in fall 1990 with 11 courses and 144 students. The program, which boasts no tests, no papers to write and no grades, received a \$1 million endowment from the Bernard Osher Foundation in 2010.

“I attribute our success to word of mouth,” said Ian Wilson, OLLI’s executive director. “We offer good courses and great experiences.”

Learn more at olliatutep.org.

While OLLI offers a few dance and tai chi courses, seniors who want to work up a sweat register for UTEP’s Physical Fitness

in the Golden Age program. It is designed for individuals ages 60 and older interested in being limber, strong, healthy and independent.

Sandor Dorgo, Ph.D., associate professor of kinesiology, started the program in 2006 with a \$50,000 grant from the Paso del Norte Health Foundation’s Ageless Health Initiative.

The initial 30-member cohort exercised in the Fitness Research Facility in the Ross Moore Building near UTEP’s Kidd Field. Today Dorgo oversees an enrollment of more than 200 seniors in two locations. In 2014, the program began to offer morning classes in the Gary del Palacio Recreation Center, 3001 Parkwood Drive on El Paso’s East Side. The seniors use machines, free weights and other equipment to build strength, stamina and confidence.

The program opens enrollment in June for the fall semester with the first classes starting in September. Participants need a doctor’s note stating they are healthy enough to start an exercise routine, which is done under the supervision of Dorgo and certified kinesiology graduate and undergraduate students doing their fieldwork. The cost is \$90.

“If you want to live your golden years in good health and have a high quality of life, you must exercise regularly,” said Dorgo,

an international expert in strength training and conditioning. "We provide the expertise, the motivation and the environment to engage in proper exercise to improve your health."

Learn more at goldenagefitness.utep.edu.

Scores have pumped up their business acumen by attending the annual Estate Planning Conference for Women since its 1966 launch through a partnership with UTEP's Woman's Auxiliary. Participants gather for free morning sessions once a week for five weeks in the University Library's Blumberg Auditorium to hear about the fundamentals of estate planning.

Prominent El Paso business professionals present topics such as asset protection, elder law, charitable giving, life insurance and various aspects of estate planning. More than 40 women attended the 2015 series. Registration has started for the 2016 sessions.

"This conference is an opportunity for the University to give back to the community," said John Aranda, a UTEP development director. "The conference is a wonderful opportunity to help those who may or may not have completed their estate planning."

Marilyn Cromeans, a 1958 graduate of Texas Western College (now UTEP), and a Woman's Auxiliary member since the 1980s, called the sessions friendly and worthwhile. She praised the leadership of past auxiliary leaders Maxine Steele and Winona McKay for starting and supporting this conference at a time when such programs were only for men.

"Organizers bring in excellent speakers who tell you things you need to look into about retirement and trusts," Cromeans said. "Everyone should try to go." Register or ask questions at development@utep.edu or 915-747-8533. 📧



Approximately 435 adults ages 50 and older attend classes at UTEP through the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, which has served the Paso del Norte region for 25 years.

"If you want to live your golden years in good health and have a high quality of life, you must exercise regularly."

Sandor Dorgo, Ph.D., associate professor of kinesiology

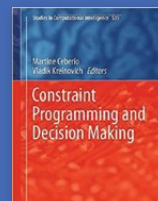
Faculty Must-Reads



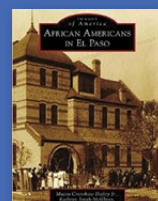
Methods for the Ethnography of Communication: Language in Use in Schools and Communities, by Char Ullman, Ph.D., associate professor of sociocultural foundations of education, et al. (Routledge, 2014)



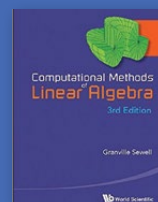
Economists and the State: What Went Wrong, by Timothy P. Roth, Ph.D., A.B. Templeton Professor and chair of the Department of Economics and Finance. (Edward Elgar Publishing, 2014)



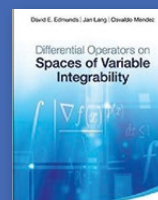
Constraint Programming and Decision Making (Studies in Computational Intelligence), by Vladik Kreinovich, Ph.D., professor of computer science, et al. (Springer, 2014)



African Americans in El Paso (Images of America), by Maceo Crenshaw Dailey Jr., Ph.D., director of the African-American Studies Program and associate professor of history, et al. (Arcadia Publishing, 2014)



Computational Methods of Linear Algebra, 3rd Edition, by Granville Sewell, Ph.D., professor of mathematical sciences (World Scientific Publishing Co., 2014)



Differential Operators on Spaces of Variable Integrability, by Osvaldo Mendez, Ph.D., associate professor of mathematical sciences, et al. (World Scientific Publishing Co., 2014)



Metronomic Chemotherapy: Pharmacology and Clinical Applications, edited by Giulio Francia, Ph.D., assistant professor of biological sciences, et al. (Springer, 2014)

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Distinguished Guests



TEXAS COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS

The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals made its first visit to El Paso and UTEP on Feb. 5. The legal proceedings presented a unique opportunity for students in UTEP's Patricia and Paul Yetter Law School Preparation Institute to witness how judges interpret the law.

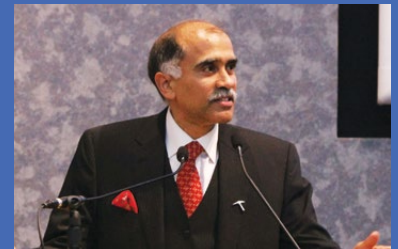


U.S. REP. TERRI SEWELL

U.S. Rep. Terri Sewell of Alabama delivered the Feb. 20 keynote address for UTEP's Black History Month celebration organized by the African-American Studies Program. This year's theme was "A Century of Black Life, History and Culture."

PARVATHANENI HARISH

The Honorable Parvathaneni Harish, consul general of India in Houston, Texas, delivered the first Centennial Lecture of the spring 2015 semester on March 2. The lecture, titled "The Indian Economy: Opportunities for Business and Industry," included data about his country's growing economy.



THORNE LAY, PH.D.

Former El Pasoan and distinguished seismologist Thorne Lay, Ph.D., visited UTEP on March 4 to present his research and insights about the planet's deep structure and how the ground ruptures to generate great earthquakes.

ARNOLD A. CHACON

Arnold A. Chacon, director general of the Foreign Service and director of Human Resources at the U.S. Department of State, discussed State Department career opportunities with students on Thursday, March 19. Chacon, who has been a member of the Foreign Service for 33 years, was joined by other Foreign Service Officers during the presentation. ➤





TCM DAY CELEBRATES 95th Year

By Esmeralda Treviño • Photos by Ivan Pierre Aguirre

Around 100 students gathered Friday, March 20, 2015, to celebrate The University of Texas at El Paso's oldest tradition. Since 1920, TCM Day has been observed annually around St. Patrick's Day to commemorate the Texas College of Mines and Metallurgy.

Every year students honor St. Patrick, the patron saint of engineers. The coming of St. Pat is a crucial part of the TCM Day festivities.

"Being this year's St. Patrick was a rush!" said Adrian Aguilar, a senior electrical engineering student who had the honor of representing St. Patrick. "Being a part of the longest-running tradition the University had was like a dream come true."

TCM Day consists of the whitewashing of the "M" on the mountain off Sun Bowl Drive, the Team Mining Challenge and the kissing of the Blarney Stone. The Team Mining Challenge is a favorite among participants in which students form teams and complete several miner-themed obstacles. These tasks included panning for gold, navigating a mine cart, and acting as a pack mule.

Since 2014, students, staff and alumni from every college have been invited to take part in the ritual, which started as a tradition in the College of Engineering.

"It's a great way for people to socialize and have school spirit outside of the classroom," said civil engineering senior Gaby Porras. 📷

TCM Day consists of the whitewashing of the "M" on the mountain off Sun Bowl Drive, the Team Mining Challenge and the kissing of the Blarney Stone.



Top: A UTEP TCM Day participant kisses the Blarney Stone, keeping a 95-year-old tradition alive.

Middle: A UTEP student takes a selfie with the TCM Day Burro.

Bottom: Two TCM Day participants race to complete the Team Mining Challenge.

Project MOVE

UTEP'S DAY OF SERVICE GENERATES LITERAL, EMOTIONAL CHILLS

By Daniel Perez • Photos by Ivan Pierre Aguirre and Laura Trejo



More than 1,700 UTEP volunteers spread out across the Paso del Norte region on Feb. 28, 2015, to work at 70 sites as part of the sixth annual Project MOVE (Miner Opportunities for Volunteer Experiences).

A record number of volunteers participated in The University of Texas at El Paso's sixth annual Project MOVE (Miner Opportunities for Volunteer Experiences) on Feb. 28, 2015. UTEP's annual day of community service got off to a chilly start – 31 degrees – but warmed up as the reported 1,677 students, staff, faculty, alumni and friends spread out across the region to help 70 nonprofit organizations to read to children, coach youth soccer players, renovate homes, create gardens, process donated food, repair nature trails and much more.

Alexandra Sanchez, a sophomore marketing major, was part of UTEP's American Marketing Association chapter that helped beautify the Central El Paso home of an elderly widow. Sanchez said the woman became emotional when she saw her

yard cleared of weeds and the fresh coat of white paint on her window trim and carport.

"All of us were charged by her reaction," said Sanchez, an El Paso native and first-generation college student. "Some of us even got teary-eyed. The experience made me more appreciative of what I have, and happy to have had the opportunity to help someone else."

UTEP promotes Project MOVE as a service-learning opportunity that helps volunteers see other parts of the community and the needs of its residents.

"The University and El Paso communities banded together once more to generate record numbers of volunteers to serve," said Ryan Holmes, Ed.D., assistant vice president for student support and the event's lead organizer. "Not even the cold could cool down our Miner spirit." 📌



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UTEP FEATURES





A MINER EXPERIENCE:

UTEP STUDENTS GET THE MOST OUT OF UNIVERSITY LIFE

By Laura L. Acosta

Whether students at The University of Texas at El Paso are standouts on the basketball court, hunting for viruses that infect bacteria, living on campus, or taking advantage of dual-credit opportunities in high school, the experiences in which Miners take part outside of the classroom are equally as important as their final grades.

Studies have shown that students who are engaged outside the classroom perform better academically, progress to degree completion in a timely manner, are more active as alumni and are better prepared for the work world.

A 2014 Gallup-Purdue University study of 30,000 college graduates found that the types of experiences students have in college, such as internships, extracurricular activities and semesterlong projects, strongly relate to great jobs and great lives afterward.

“Engagement in student life activities such as being a member of a student club, writing for the school newspaper, participating on an intramural team, attending a sporting event, a leadership conference or a musical performance and even living on campus all help students in being more prepared for the ever-changing global market and become more competitive in the world of work and graduate studies,” said Catie McCorry-Andalis, Ed.D., associate vice president for student engagement and dean of students at UTEP.

The UTEP Division of Student Affairs includes departments, programs and services that integrate academics with extracurricular activities, voluntarism and programs designed to help students reach their full potential.

Through successful student engagement initiatives, such as UTEP L.I.V.E., 21st Century Scholars and Project MOVE, UTEP is becoming known for offering students a complete college experience.

SUCCESS ON AND OFF THE COURT

Marissa Rodriguez was destined to become a Miner since the day she met UTEP women's basketball coach Keitha Adams at the first Little Miner basketball camp for girls in 2001. Her family moved to San Antonio when Rodriguez was 9 years old, but the El Paso native was determined to come back after graduating from Ronald Reagan High School in 2011.

Adams offered Rodriguez a walk-on spot on the UTEP women's basketball team, but it was the College of Business Administration's national reputation for being one of the best schools in the United States for educating Hispanics that sealed the deal for Rodriguez.

"I was looking into the College of Business [Administration] here and it was really good, especially for Hispanics, and I wasn't ready to stop playing basketball," explained Rodriguez, a senior guard on the Miner basketball team who expects to graduate with her accounting degree in May 2015. "I (thought), 'This is where I need to go and what I need to do, so, here I come.'"

Off the basketball court, Rodriguez immersed herself in the UTEP scene. She lived in Miner Village and served as vice president of UTEP's Student Government Association (SGA). Rodriguez also has served as president of UTEP's student-athlete advisory council and represented her teammates on the Conference USA student-athlete advisory council. She also was selected as the sole C-USA representative to the NCAA's Student-Athlete Advisory Council.

In summer 2014, Rodriguez participated in UTEP's Patricia and Paul Yetter Law School Preparation Institute, which prepared her to take the LSAT, or Law School Admission Test, and also sparked her interest in becoming a tax attorney. She will attend Notre Dame Law School in the fall.

"I have a lot of student friends and I see their perspective on things," Rodriguez said. "They have many stories to tell and I want to tell their stories. I love UTEP, and my goal along with the rest of the student government is to make a better campus, to improve it in any way we can and get away from that commuter school (reputation)."

Marissa Rodriguez
Photo Courtesy of UTEP Athletics



ON THE HUNT FOR EXCELLENCE

Rebecca Soto, a senior biochemistry major and phage – or bacterial virus – hunter, is among the many students with outstanding stories to tell. As a freshman, Soto discovered a mycobacteriophage that could lead to treatment therapies for tuberculosis. Soto named the discovery Rebeuca, a combination of her name and her lab partner's name, Beu Oropeza.

Since her first semester, Soto has worked under Germán Rosas-Acosta, Ph.D., in the SUMO-Influenza Laboratory for Cellular and Molecular Virology. Soto spends about 20 hours a week at the bench lab where she has participated in several research projects involving viral diseases, specifically the Influenza A virus, through the Howard Hughes Medical Institute's SEA-PHAGES (Science Education Alliance – Phage Hunters Advancing Genomics and Evolutionary Science) program.

"I strongly believe that participating in research is one of the most valuable activities that undergraduate students can do during their college years," Rosas-Acosta said. "It provides them with direct exposure to some of the experimental approaches that have been used to generate the scientific knowledge they learn in their classes."

In 2013, Soto participated in the Harvard Stem Cell Institute Internship program in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and was invited back the following year. She has mentored phage hunters in the SEA-PHAGES program, presented at the SEA-PHAGES Symposium at Janelia Farm research campus, and is an undergraduate research fellow in UTEP's Research Initiative for Scientific Enhancement (R.I.S.E.) program.

One of Soto's most unforgettable UTEP moments took place outside of the lab when she met one of her heroes – noted activist, author and speaker Cornel West, Ph.D. – during his lecture at UTEP's Magoffin Auditorium in 2014.

"My experience at UTEP has been really transformative," said Soto, who hopes to study stem cell and regenerative biology after she graduates in May 2015. "If you go out of town, you can be selfish and just focus on what you need to do, whereas if you stay here at home, you have responsibilities like your family and trying to juggle that with school, work and everything else. All in all, it's been a great experience."

Rebecca Soto
Photo by Laura Trejo



A MEANINGFUL EXPERIENCE

Dustin Schirmer is part of a select group of Early College High School students who have condensed their UTEP experience into two years. But that hasn't stopped the 20-year-old senior political science major from making the most of his time at the University.

Schirmer began taking dual-credit courses at UTEP his junior year at Transmountain Early College High School. Since enrolling at the University full time in 2013, he has joined the SGA, served as secretary for UTEP's National Society of Leadership and Success, manned the football toss booth at Minerpalooza, and volunteered in the community through Project MOVE, UTEP's annual day of service.

"There was just something that said, 'You should try to experience a bit more of that college lifestyle and do it while you can,'" said Schirmer, who will graduate from UTEP in summer 2015. "You're not here too long, so why not?"

As a prosecutor for the SGA Traffic Court, Schirmer is applying the judicial skills he learned in the LSPI program to successfully prosecute cases related to student parking violations on campus. The court consists of two prosecutors, two public defenders and three traffic court justices.

"It's like that one video game that Nintendo released a long time ago – Phoenix Wright: Ace Attorney – because you're running everywhere gathering evidence and then you go to court and present it," Schirmer said. "I love my job."

Schirmer's UTEP experience has been further amplified by his professors, who have inspired him to follow his dreams.

After taking a class his first semester at UTEP with Joseph B. Graves, Ph.D., a professor of political science and criminal justice, Schirmer was certain he had made the right choice to pursue a career in politics.

Schirmer fondly recalled how the 88-year-old Graves would weave stories about his days working at the White House under the Eisenhower and Kennedy administrations into his class lectures.

"I am extremely proud to be at this University," Schirmer said, "because it really is the gateway to a great future."

Dustin Schirmer
Photo by Laura Trejo



ON-CAMPUS LIFE

Living in Miner Village since 2012 has made it possible for Moises Blankenship, a senior history major, to develop friendships with students from diverse backgrounds and different countries who have enriched his time at UTEP. Among them is his roommate Jean Montes, a junior in mechanical engineering who left his native Torreón, Mexico, in 2011 to escape the city's drug violence.

Montes serves as president of Miner Village's Residence Hall Association and Blankenship is the association's vice president. They organize fun activities, such as karaoke night, to give residents a break from homework and a chance to meet other residents.

"Neighbors know their neighbors," Montes said. "My freshman year, I would tell the guys, 'Hey, I'm making pancakes. Come and eat.'"

Blankenship, a California native, said Montes helped him expand his social circle on campus.

The two are members of the UTEP chapter of the College Republicans. Blankenship serves as the chapter's president and Montes as the vice president. Through their involvement, they've met New Mexico Gov. Susana Martinez and former Texas Gov. Rick Perry.

For Blankenship, living on campus has allowed him to participate in many events, such as Minerpalooza, UTEP L.I.V.E., Orange and Blue Day, and UTEP Celebrates. He also volunteers in the community through Project MOVE, the Miner Volunteer Corps and the UTEP Center for Civic Engagement.

"By offering many ways to gain leadership experience, improve networking and communication skills and give back to the community through community service, I have been able to get a great education at an affordable cost and have gained many achievements that I can put on my resume," Blankenship said. "UTEP is one of the best universities in the country, which offers many students from different backgrounds a way to get a university education. I am very grateful to have come here and will be sad to leave." ❏

Jean Montes, left, and Moises Blankenship
Photo by Laura Trejo



THE WIND BENEATH OUR

PICKS

By Daniel Perez

Warm spring winds swept through the Undergraduate Learning Center’s plaza as UTEP President Diana Natalicio shared the uplifting news that The University of Texas at El Paso’s most ambitious fundraising campaign had exceeded its \$200 million goal.

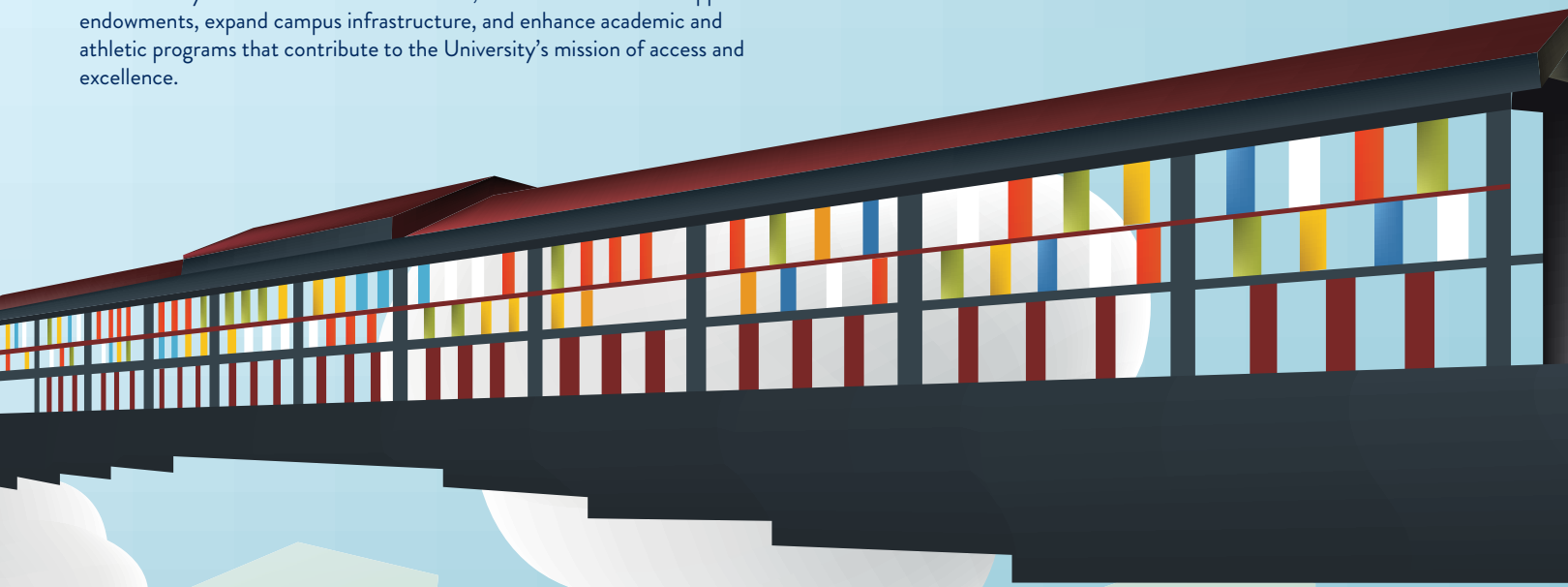
The clearly elated campus leader, backed by about 150 boisterous, orange T-shirt-wearing UTEP students, told the crowd on April 2, 2015, that the seven-year campaign collected in excess of \$226 million.

The money will be used to build academic, research and student support endowments, expand campus infrastructure, and enhance academic and athletic programs that contribute to the University’s mission of access and excellence.

“Creating access to enriched educational opportunities for the talented students in this region is exactly why we are all here,” President Natalicio said.

She thanked everyone involved in the campaign’s success, calling it a huge source of pride and a demonstration of support that will fortify the University as it defines a new direction for U.S. higher education.

Whether the donations were meant as a “thank you” for the past or an investment in the future, the largesse will benefit future generations of Miners.



CENTENNIAL CAMPAIGN SUPPORT Current Use & Endowments

Student Support <small>(Undergraduate and Graduate Scholarships, Fellowship & Student Excellence)</small>	\$48,439,411
Faculty Support	\$8,238,233
Program Support <small>(Includes research)</small>	\$148,524,953
Capital <small>(Equipment, Facilities and Gift-In-Kind)</small>	\$21,551,142
TOTAL	\$226,753,739

\$226,753,739

CENTENNIAL CAMPAIGN
RAISED

\$200,000,000

CENTENNIAL CAMPAIGN
GOAL

**CAMPAIGN
GIFTS &
PARTICIPATION**

Total number of
gifts to campaign:
124,549

Total number
of donors:
26,449

TESTIMONIALS



“Funds from the Centennial Campaign have helped the University to organize Project MOVE (Miner Opportunities for Volunteer Experiences), UTEP’s annual day of community service. More than 1,600 volunteers work with scores of nonprofit organizations that day to build a better El Paso. Our students benefit from learning about different El Paso area neighborhoods and the needs of the people who live there. Whether their gratification is immediate or delayed, it’s the kind of experience that makes them a better person and more attractive to future employers.”

– **Ryan Holmes, Ed.D., assistant vice president for student support, and lead organizer of UTEP’s Project MOVE**



“My scholarship has provided me with the opportunity to succeed at UTEP through academics and membership in several occupational therapy student organizations including the Pi Theta Epsilon honor society. The University is helping me to realize my dreams of earning my occupational therapy degree and eventually working at a clinic where I can help others reach their fullest potential.”

– **Brittany Diaz, occupational therapy graduate student who earned the Scholarship for Disadvantaged Students from the Department of Occupational Therapy**



“The Student Government Association reinvests the resources it receives from the University into its students. We allocate \$78,000 annually to students and student organizations that use the funds for activities on campus as well as out-of-town events and research conferences that help with their personal, social and academic growth. It enhances our college experience and helps groom the next generation of community leaders.”

– **Robert Dominguez, junior biochemistry major, Student Government Association president 2014-15**



“This scholarship is a testament that others share my confidence in my abilities to reach my academic and professional potential. It bolsters my determination to do my best in class, and reminds me of the successes I am capable of everyday. I look forward to the time when I can give back to UTEP and help others the way I have been helped.”

– **Renee Malooly, senior multimedia journalism major, recipient of the Roy S. and Helen Magruder Endowed Scholarship**

ENDOWMENT SUPPORT SUMMARY

- 149** New endowments for student support (Totaling over \$21 million)
- 49** New endowments for program support (Totaling over \$7 million)
- 15** New endowments for faculty support (Totaling over \$7 million)

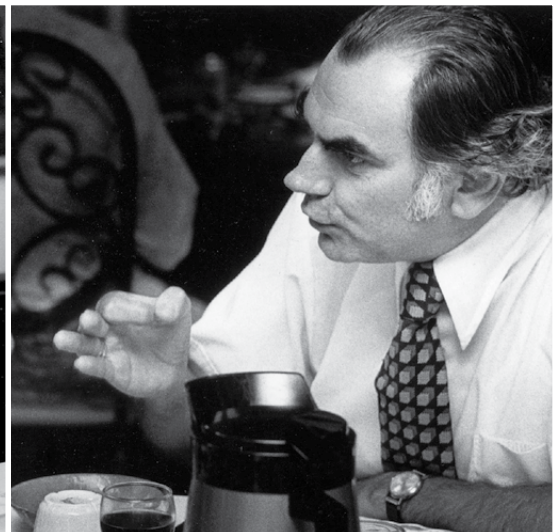
TOTAL: 213 NEW ENDOWMENTS

WWII SURVIVOR, HUMAN RIGHTS CHAMPION RETIRES

By Lisa Y. Garibay



Top left: Anthony Kruszewski as a young soldier with the Polish Army during World War II. Top right, bottom and facing page: Kruszewski at UTEP over the years.



Protégés refer to him as “a walking institution,” colleagues call him “brilliant” and friends say, “He is a hero.” But most people know him as Tony.

L

ongtime political science Professor Z. Anthony “Tony” Kruszewski, Ph.D., officially retired on Jan. 15, 2015, after 50 years of teaching, 46 of which were spent at UTEP pushing students’ limits on every level.

“You will hear a lot of controversial stories from me, not because I am anti-American, but because I want this system of ours to correlate with the ideas and values in our Constitution. We should make sure that every generation will be better and better,” he said.

The University recognized him during a reception in January that more than 100 UTEP and community guests

attended – just a sampling of the multitudes whose lives he has touched, including an estimated 15,000 students who have gone on to blaze their own trails as lawyers, judges, politicians and educators.

President Diana Natalicio shared in the celebration of this remarkable man, who was born in Warsaw, Poland, in 1928 and was working as a spy for the Polish Resistance against the Nazis by his teens.

“I don’t know anyone who has a more eclectic network than Tony Kruszewski,” she said while surveying the wide range of professions, organizations and generations represented at the retirement reception.

And however unlikely it is that someone from Kruszewski’s background ended up half a world away in El Paso, he believes it was meant to be.

“In a way I felt fulfilled from the first moment,” he said, adding that Polish culture is very similar to the Mexican culture he encountered upon arriving in El Paso.

After his service with the resistance movement, Kruszewski fought for the Warsaw Uprising in 1944, then in the Polish Army in 1945. The United States accepted Kruszewski as a permanent resident due to his war veteran status and he immigrated to Chicago in 1952 with \$51 in his pocket.

Surviving the occupation of his country and the horrors of World War II imbued Kruszewski with a passion for fostering cooperation among peoples of all types. The discrimination he saw Mexican-Americans facing upon his arrival in El Paso in 1968 made him all the more determined to teach his students the importance of standing up, being counted and fighting for democratic rights – all principles of political science they could enact in day-to-day life.

“I was driven to political science because I wanted to find out about justice and discrimination because I suffered all of that,” he said. “I barely survived it.”

His stories are the stuff of legend, infused with a powerful humanity that fueled his passion as an educator. His strongest role model was his mother, a teacher who worked two jobs after Kruszewski’s father died early on.

“She destroyed stereotype and introduced me to values,” he said, describing how she rented out a room in their home to a Jewish student during the Nazi occupation of Poland. “He lived with us for three years of the war. For that, we would have been executed on the spot, the whole family. But Mama never hesitated.”

Tragically, Kruszewski’s mother later was sent to Ravensbrück, the largest Nazi concentration camp for women, where she died just weeks before its liberation in 1944.

Kruszewski estimates that he came close to certain death half a dozen times while serving with the Polish Resistance during Nazi occupation. The worst of these experiences was at age 16 when he was captured as a carrier for the underground movement.

He recalled, “It was a very hot summer and we sat in the guard house with the windows open. I was talking with the man who was guarding me; he was about my age now, probably 80, with an old rifle from probably the Prussian War. He said, ‘Look, you are going to be killed tomorrow. You have to try to escape at the first instance that you can.’”

The next day, while being marched to dig fortification against the Russians, Kruszewski slipped around a corner and jumped into a cellar unseen.

“After all of these stories about atrocities committed and my mother dying in a concentration camp, a German saved my life in a crucial moment,” Kruszewski said. “I always say to my students, ‘It isn’t we Mexicans, we Americans, we Poles; it’s human beings.’”

Throughout his life, Kruszewski has remained a committed world citizen, contributing his energy and talents toward causes close to home and in locales where needed. He co-founded the Association for Borderlands Studies in 1976, which has grown to encompass academic, governmental and nongovernmental agencies representing almost every continent.

“He’s a great scholar who helped to put comparative border studies on the world map,” said Kathleen Staudt, Ph.D., professor of political science. “It’s one thing to teach dry political science concepts and principles; it’s another thing to include all those stories with the concepts and principles because, in the end, that’s often what students remember.”

Staudt recounted a story about Kruszewski’s affability. As chair of the political science department, Kruszewski offered to meet her at the airport when Staudt was hired by UTEP in 1977.

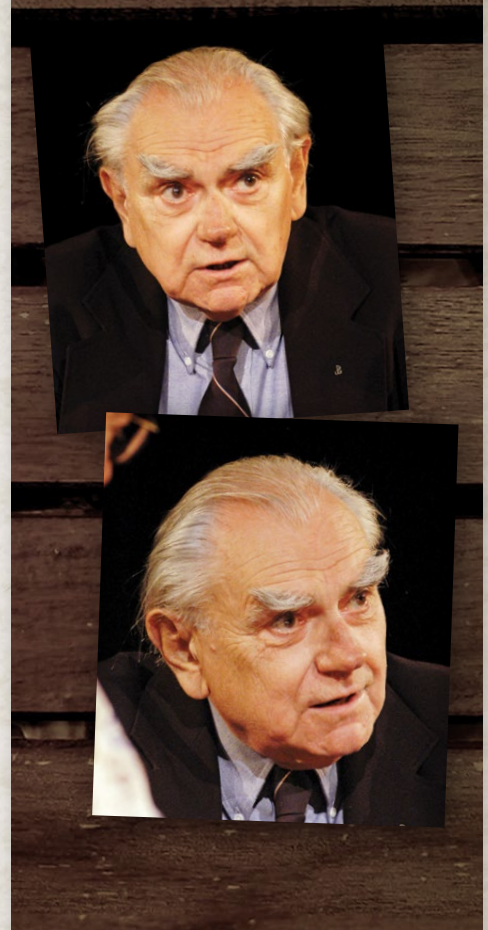
“How will I know how to find you?” she asked him during a pre-flight phone call.

“By my bushy eyebrows,” he responded.

The political science giant arrived at UTEP after a job interview in a bar near New York’s Kennedy Airport. He had been teaching at State University of New York at Plattsburg after receiving his master’s degree and Ph.D. from the University of Chicago, working any jobs he could get his hands on to pay his way through school.

UTEP alumnus Bert Diamondstein ’75 has known Kruszewski for four decades.

“He’s been my intellectual and moral mentor ever since we first met,” Diamondstein



Kathleen Staudt recounted a story about Kruszewski’s affability. As chair of the political science department, Kruszewski offered to meet her at the airport when Staudt was hired by UTEP in 1977.

“How will I know how to find you?” she asked him during a pre-flight phone call.

“By my bushy eyebrows,” he responded.



Photo by Laura Trejo

Dean of the College of Liberal Arts Patricia Witherspoon, Ph.D., said that Kruszewski intentionally chose to retire at the end of UTEP's Centennial year – fitting given that he contributed so much to the University's growth over almost half of its first century.

said. "The University has been very fortunate to have him. I believe that one of his major contributions, not only academically but morally and historically, will be for him to write his autobiography, because it is in the very real sense the American Dream realized."

Kruszewski's community work within his adopted hometown has included service on the El Paso Holocaust Museum and Study Center board of directors. The museum held a gala in Kruszewski's honor several years ago to help fund a UTEP scholarship honoring him and his family.

That scholarship is the tip of an iceberg of generosity extended by Kruszewski and his wife, June, toward the University. Their permanent legacy at UTEP includes several endowed professorships and scholarships, named after the Kruszewskis or in honor of members of their family.

María Socorro Tabuenca, Ph.D., recalled how Kruszewski donated a large sum toward a border conference when she was director of El Colegio de la Frontera Norte in Juárez.

"He's been very, very gracious and we're always going to be grateful to him for that," she said. "Every time I think of Tony, I see his big eyebrows, his willingness to help students and to share his knowledge not only from books but from his experience."

A full professor at UTEP by 1972, Kruszewski served twice as chair of the Department of Political Science and two terms as chair of the UTEP Graduate Council. He traveled extensively as a guest lecturer and visiting professor to universities in Poland, Yugoslavia, Romania, Hungary, Brazil, Japan, Israel, Germany, Ukraine and Russia.

The University of Texas System lauded Kruszewski with the Chancellor's Outstanding Teaching Award in 1988. He received the UTEP Vice President for Academic Affairs Award for Academic Excellence in 1982.

Dean of the College of Liberal Arts Patricia Witherspoon, Ph.D., said that Kruszewski intentionally chose to retire at the end of UTEP's Centennial year – fitting given that he contributed so much to the University's growth over almost half of its first century.

With his official tenure as professor finished, Kruszewski still has a lot to do. Up first is the completion of a memoir for the Polish Academy of Sciences' Institute of History of Science. Afterward, the educator will remain on call within the political science department, teaching one or two classes as the need arises.

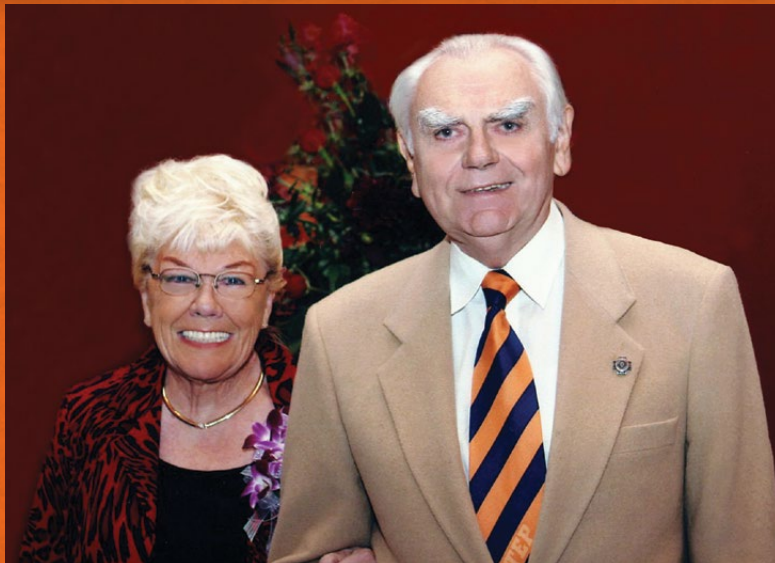
After receiving a standing ovation at his retirement reception, a choked-up Kruszewski assured everyone he would be staying in El Paso "with the UTEP family I made when I first came 46 years ago," proud to be part of an institution that has created a model for how to treat minorities.

"I'd like to thank UTEP for giving me a chance to participate in transforming U.S. university programs and fight for tolerance and equal opportunities for future generations," he said.

The tremendous impact he has had upon those who know him is clear. For those who don't yet know Tony, stop and say hello if you spot the eyebrows nearby. You'll learn a lot in the process, for those eyebrows belong to a legend.

Editor's note: UTEP Magazine was saddened to learn that Tony Kruszewski's wife, June, died April 10, 2015.

The **Legacy** Continues



THE PERMANENT LEGACY LEFT AT UTEP BY RETIRED PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL SCIENCE Z. ANTHONY "TONY" KRUSZEWSKI AND HIS WIFE, JUNE, INCLUDES:

- The Kruszewski Endowed Professorship in Political Science
- The Antoni Grabowski Endowed Memorial Professorship in the Department of Linguistics, established to honor the memory of Kruszewski's maternal grandfather, who was one of the creators of universal language Esperanto
- The June Sadowski Kruszewski Endowed Professorship in Theater Arts, in honor of the couple's 50th wedding anniversary and June's work with the Nasza Reduta legitimate theater in Chicago
- The Irena Grabowska Kruszewska Memorial Endowed Scholarship, named for Tony's mother, who pushed him to become a diplomat or political science professor before she perished in a concentration camp
- The Mary Misiewicz Sadowski Memorial Endowed Scholarship in memory of June's mother



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Executive MBA

Program Empowers Local Leaders

By Lisa Y. Garibay



City of El Paso Fire Chief Sam Peña is a current student in UTEP's Executive MBA program. Photo by Ivan Pierre Aguirre

As the general manager of the Border Environment Cooperation Commission, Maria Elena Giner felt that she was providing leadership intuitively rather than formally. City of El Paso Fire Chief Sam Peña didn't think he could continue his education given the demands of his job. Emergence Health Network CEO Kristen Daugherty was being encouraged by her board to seek a business degree to complement her clinical background, but she never imagined doing so while running an organization of nearly 600 employees with multiple locations across the region.

That's where the UTEP Executive MBA, or EMBA, program comes in. The 18-month-long course of study has enabled dozens of professionals like Giner, Peña and Daugherty to develop as managers while balancing real-world time constraints and life demands.

"We have to abandon the idea that schooling is restricted to youth," said Peña, who expects to graduate in May 2015. "Now that I'm here, I feel the EMBA experience has been one of the most riveting moments of my career."

The EMBA program launched in January 2010 to provide business and nonprofit leaders with a first-class graduate business program through an expedited, nontraditional format facilitating academic and professional growth among highly experienced individuals with busy schedules.

These students receive the benefits of a classroom experience while still being able to meet their professional obligations. Every student is accomplished in their field and contributes to the classroom discourse.

Assistant Dean for MBA Programs Laura Uribarri says each cohort is kept purposefully small, ranging between 20 and 30 students, to

maximize meaningful discourse and networking opportunities.

Additionally, the EMBA features an International Research Course focused on comparative corporate governance that is conducted during a short study abroad. The current cohort traveled to China during spring break this year.

Robert Nachtmann, DBA, dean of the College of Business Administration, drove the creation of the EMBA. He felt strongly that UTEP's College of Business Administration needed to offer the program in order to fully serve the graduate business education needs of the region.

"The managerial leadership and all organizations that are the source of economic development in this region deserved the opportunity that our EMBA program provides to grow and develop," Nachtmann said.

Real-world needs solidified Peña's decision to enroll in the program.

"Fire and emergency service departments are embarking on a long transformation into modern, data-driven organizations," he said. "The environment is changing from one where

problems were solved through gut instinct toward outcomes that can be measured and problems that must be solved with well thought-out and analyzed approaches."

Daugherty, who received her MBA in 2014, welcomed the level of professionalism among her EMBA group that allowed for frank and honest discussions despite working in different fields.

"Everyone was able to relate to the challenges faced by business leaders on a daily basis," she said. The medical professional also felt her position served as a learning laboratory throughout her EMBA tenure as the company underwent intensive change. "I was able to apply the concepts being taught in every class to my day-to-day operations and share those experiences with my classmates."

Daugherty, Giner and Peña agreed that balancing school, jobs and family is the biggest challenge for someone coming to the EMBA program, but the payoff is immediate.

Giner is currently leading the merger of two international organizations.

"The accounting and finance classes allowed me to better understand our audited financial



Emergence Health Network CEO Kristen Daugherty graduated from UTEP's Executive MBA program in 2014.
Photo by Laura Trejo

reports, improve the management of our budget and be good stewards of public dollars," Giner said. "Human resources, organizational management and communication classes resulted in improvements in our HR manual, employee recruiting, stakeholder communication, application of strategic management and performance measurement. Business law, marketing and corporate governance classes assisted me in understanding the importance of the stakeholder and the interface between the private sector and government."

Peña added, "The EMBA will enable me to add more value as a city employee and to model the way for the troops we are supposed to be leading. It is critical that the individuals making the most important budget and resource allocation decisions for the fire department and the community's fire and emergency safety be well educated."

Diversity also is an important aspect of the EMBA program. The number of female applicants and enrollees has increased through the years, starting with one woman

in a class of 11 during the first EMBA cohort in 2010. Today, women comprise 42 percent of the 2015 EMBA class. There is also strong variety when it comes to professional fields represented in the classroom.

"Our students have come from the military, local government, financial services, health care administration, manufacturing, energy, nonprofit, technology, logistics, medicine, law, higher education, construction, engineering and retail," Uribarri said.

"We had faith in the people of this region and made a bet," Nachtmann said. "That bet resulted in a modern and an efficient professional education facility – some say the best in the state, but certainly in the Southwest – and a cadre of UTEP EMBA graduates that now lead corporations and launch enterprise in this region."

Peña added, "Through higher education, UTEP's EMBA program equips leaders to benefit their organization and contributes to a better community by preparing people working to solve problems." ✉

"We have to abandon the idea that schooling is restricted to youth."

Sam Peña, City of El Paso Fire Chief

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business.utep.edu/magazine

UTEP Contributes \$1.4 Billion to Local Economy

By Lisa Y. Garibay

According to a 2015 report by Economic Modeling Specialists International (EMSI), The University of Texas at El Paso contributes \$1.4 billion to the local economy each year.

That is equal to approximately 5.4 percent of the total gross regional product of El Paso County, and is equivalent to creating 26,499 new jobs.

In addition to payroll and operations spending, UTEP's total economic contribution includes research expenditures and spending by students, visitors and alumni in the county.

For every dollar a student invests in an education at UTEP, that student will receive \$3.30 in higher future income, for an average annual rate of return of 13.8 percent, according to the report.

Society benefits too, gaining \$7.80 in added state income and social savings for every dollar invested in UTEP. Taxpayers also see a return, as every dollar they spend to support UTEP's operations adds \$4 in added taxes and public sector savings.

EMSI's report uses numbers from fiscal year 2013.

Here's a breakdown of UTEP's \$1.4 billion economic impact:

- **OPERATIONS SPENDING IMPACT:** This includes payroll and non-pay expenditures to support day-to-day operations, minus research.
- **RESEARCH SPENDING IMPACT:** Research activities at UTEP impact the county economy by employing people and resulting in purchases for equipment, supplies and services. They also facilitate new knowledge creation throughout El Paso County through inventions, patent applications and licenses.
- **STUDENT SPENDING IMPACT:** Around 10 percent of graduate and undergraduate students attending UTEP originated from outside the county. Some of these students relocated to El Paso County and spent money on groceries, transportation, rent and other items at El Paso County businesses.
- **VISITOR SPENDING IMPACT:** Out-of-county visitors attracted to El Paso County for activities at UTEP brought new dollars to the economy through their spending at hotels, restaurants, gas stations and other county businesses.
- **ALUMNI IMPACT:** Students gained new skills by studying at UTEP, making them more productive workers. Today, thousands of these former students are employed in El Paso County. ☑

FISCAL YEAR 2013

\$435.1 MILLION

in payroll and operations spending by UTEP

\$1.4 BILLION

in added county income

Equal to approximately

5.4%

of the total gross regional product of El Paso County

Equivalent to creating

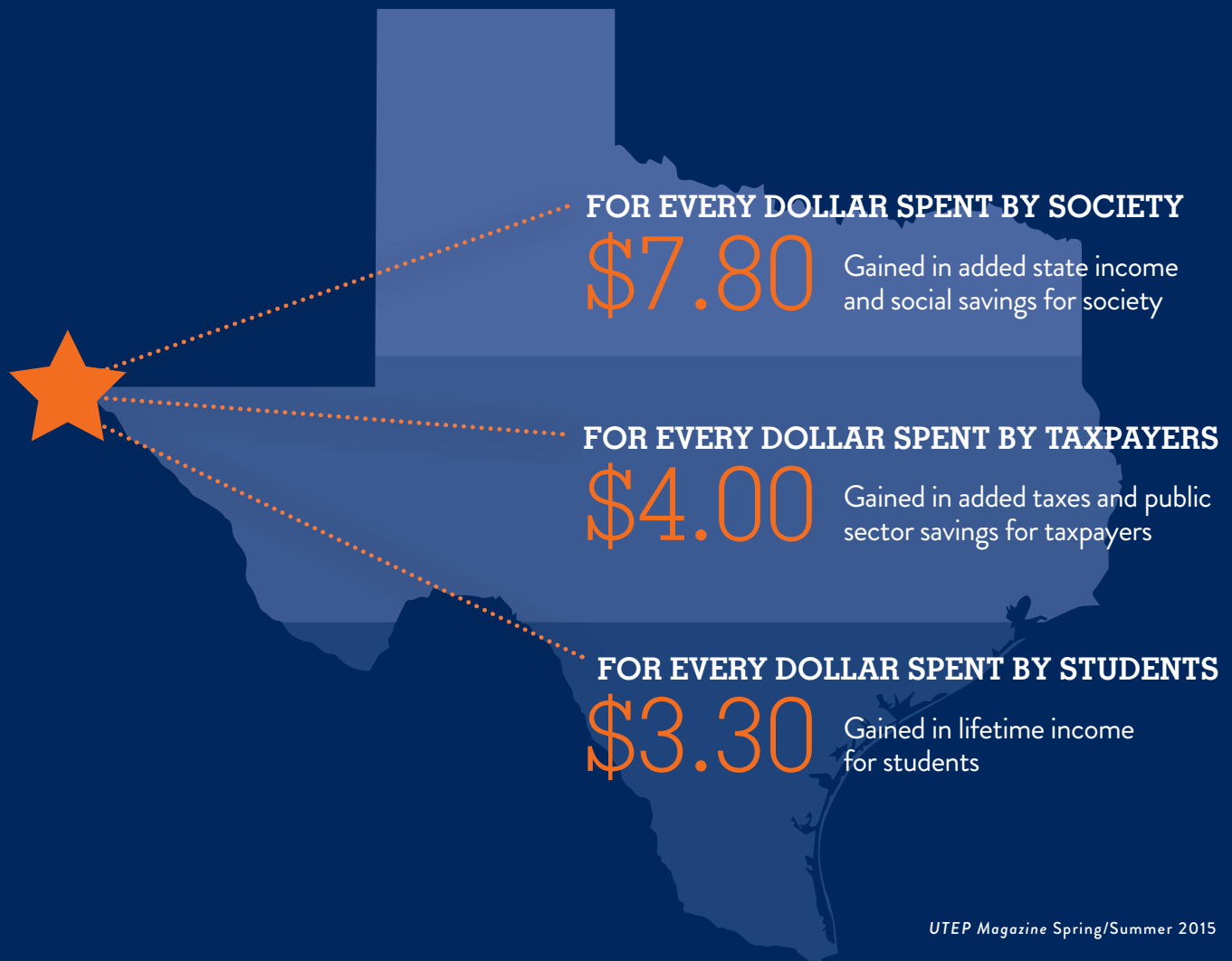
26,499

new jobs

IMPACTS CREATED BY UTEP IN FISCAL YEAR 2013

	INCOME	JOBS
Operations Spending Impact	\$294.3 Million	4,167
Research Spending Impact	\$59.3 Million	1,147
Student Spending Impact	\$33.6 Million	807
Visitor Spending Impact	\$61.7 Million	1,739
Alumni Impact	\$954.2 Million	18,639
TOTAL IMPACT	\$1.4 BILLION	26,499

"For generations, UTEP has played a major role in creating higher education opportunities that profoundly impact our students, their families and the surrounding community. We are very proud of the University's sustained contributions to the economy, prosperity and quality of life of the Paso del Norte region." – UTEP President Diana Natalicio



UTEP Partnership

By Laura L. Acosta

Puts a Face on Homelessness

Belongings and My Sanity *Mis Pertenencias y Cordura*



At 17, I was kicked out of my home for being gay. I had a limited amount of time to grab my belongings so I took a trash bag and threw as much as I could. As I was packing the bag, my family was shouting obscenities and abuse in my face. I called a cousin and spent a few nights at her home. I knew I was overstaying my welcome, so I began sleeping at another friend's house for a month. All I had was my trash bag of clothes and my sanity.

While I was walking downtown, I saw this bag perched up against an abandoned building. To the common passersby, it would seem this is just another bag of trash, but I knew better for that bag looked just like mine. A few feet away, a young teenager slept on a cardboard box.

I realized we still have so much more to accomplish as a society for homeless youth.

A los 17, me echaron de mi casa por ser gay. Tuve una cantidad limitada de tiempo para agarrar mis cosas, así que tomé una bolsa de basura y metí todo lo que pude. Mientras empacaba en la bolsa, mi familia me estaba gritando obscenidades y abusando. Llamé a un primo y pasé un par de noches en su casa. Yo sabía que estaba sobrepasando mi bienvenida, así que empecé a dormir en la casa de otro amigo durante un mes. Todo lo que tenía era mi bolsa de basura de ropa y mi cordura.

Mientras caminaba en el centro, vi este bolso recargado en un edificio abandonado. Para los transeúntes comunes, parecería sólo otra bolsa de basura, pero yo supe el significado de esa bolsa, era como la mía. A pocos metros de distancia, un joven adolescente dormía en una caja de cartón.

Me di cuenta que todavía tenemos que hacer mucho más como sociedad para los jóvenes sin hogar.

-Courtney

Courtney Adcox, a formerly homeless graduate student in UTEP's Master of Social Work Program, shares her story of overcoming homelessness through photographs in UTEP's Photovoice exhibit, "The Faces of Homelessness: Voices and Images of Homelessness in the U.S. - Mexico Border Region."

An unprecedented partnership involving homeless advocacy leaders, policy and decision makers, and academic institutions, including The University of Texas at El Paso, has spurred a call to action to reduce homelessness in the Paso del Norte region.

Nearly 400 people have attended the first two sessions of the State of Homelessness Conference at UTEP, a series of three conferences on homelessness organized by the Opportunity Center for the Homeless at El Paso and the University's Department of Social Work in the College of Health Sciences.

The conference seeks to identify the causes and conditions of homelessness, find potential solutions to minimize the effects of homelessness in the Paso del Norte community, and reduce the social stigma associated with homeless people in the community.

"There is a significant condition of homelessness in the region and it's not just the responsibility of those homeless care providers to address this area of concern," Daniel Vasquez, fund development director at the Opportunity Center for the Homeless in El Paso, said at the second conference session on Feb. 27, 2015. The first session took place in November 2014. The third is scheduled for the fall 2015 semester.

Founded in 1994 by UTEP alumnus Raymond Tullius, who earned his bachelor's degree in social work from UTEP in 1990 while he was homeless, the Opportunity Center for the Homeless is the largest homeless shelter system in West Texas and Southern New Mexico. The center consists of two shelters – one for men and one for women – and seven residential centers for the elderly, the mentally ill, veterans, families and other homeless populations.

"We needed some of the community's leaders and motivators to get behind us and get on board with us," Vasquez said. "We are humbled and very honored that the first (partner to) call when we put (our request) out was The University of Texas at El Paso. It wasn't a surprise when UTEP said, 'Yes, we're invested and yes, we're willing to make a commitment.'"

As part of the University's commitment, the Opportunity Center and the Department of Social Work created a new partnership in fall 2014 that provided graduate students with educational opportunities to help homeless persons reintegrate into the community.

Students in the macro-level social work class taught by Eva Moya, Ph.D., assistant professor of social work, have engaged the Opportunity Center as a research and teaching tool for case studies and analysis for how best to advance care for the homeless.

The El Paso Coalition for the Homeless estimates that nearly 1,400 men, women and children are homeless in El Paso.

"We embarked on a journey to teach macro-practice, do social work, understand policy, practice and advocacy in a setting of an organization with its population and within its community, and for that we are extremely grateful to the Opportunity Center for becoming our classroom," Moya told almost 300 participants at the second conference session. "The social work practitioners that we're training are going to be better equipped to see me and see you. That's the type of practitioner that I want to go to if I need

Almost 300 people attended the second State of Homelessness Conference at UTEP in February and browsed through the exhibit, "The Faces of Homelessness: Voices and Images of Homelessness in the U.S.-Mexico Border Region" in the Health Sciences and Nursing Building. Photo by Laura Trejo



a social worker. They're going to be sensitive, competent, willing and grounded in culture, assets and possibilities."

The upper-division course was the catalyst for a new Photovoice exhibit at UTEP titled, "The Faces of Homelessness: Voices and Images of Homelessness in the U.S.-Mexico Border Region."

Photovoice is a method where vulnerable populations affected by a particular issue use photography to document their quality of life, with the hope to bring about positive social change.

The exhibit anchored February's State of the Homelessness Conference at UTEP, which featured notable speakers UTEP President Diana Natalicio; the Consul General of Mexico in El Paso Jacob Prado; state Rep. Jose Rodriguez; Bishop Mark Seitz of the El Paso Catholic Diocese and representatives from the El Paso City Council, the El Paso Coalition for the Homeless, El Paso County and the Collective of Women's and Children's Services.

A documentary about the project participants on homelessness produced by Perla Chaparro and UTEP alumnus Diego Davila also was screened during the conference.

Among the 35 pictures taken by 12 homeless men and women for the exhibit are photographs by Courtney Adcox, a formerly homeless graduate student in the Master of Social Work program at UTEP.

Adcox and her classmates Corene Seymour, who graduated with her master's degree in rehabilitation counseling in December 2014, sociology graduate student Jacqueline Loweree and interdisciplinary health sciences doctoral student Paola Chávez Payan worked

with the residents of the Opportunity Center to facilitate the Photovoice project in 2014. In February, the group gave a presentation about Photovoice at the American Association of Behavioral and Social Sciences conference in Las Vegas.

The exhibit features a snapshot taken by Adcox of a clear garbage bag full of clothes and shoes lying against the wall of an abandoned building in downtown El Paso. The scenario reminded Adcox of the day when she was thrown out of her home at age 17 for being gay.

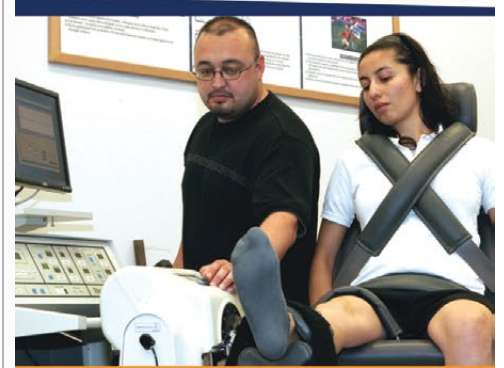
As her mother screamed at her to leave, Adcox threw her belongings in a clear plastic bag and ran out of her house. Adcox spent the next few months homeless.

"The main thing that I want people to take out of the photos is that there is hope," said Adcox, 24, who expects to graduate in May 2015. "You make your future, and the choices that you make represent the person you're going to be."

In January 2015, each of the 15 students in the macro-practice course were paired with a resident of the Opportunity Center. Students participated in community interventions, developed case studies, and prepared a Healthy People 2020 proposal, a national health promotion and disease prevention initiative established by the Department of Health and Human Services.

"The students helped create all this," said Tullius, the founder and executive director of the Opportunity Center. "The students have connected to the homeless situation a lot more, so they've become a really big part of the partnership with the Opportunity Center and UTEP." ➤

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO



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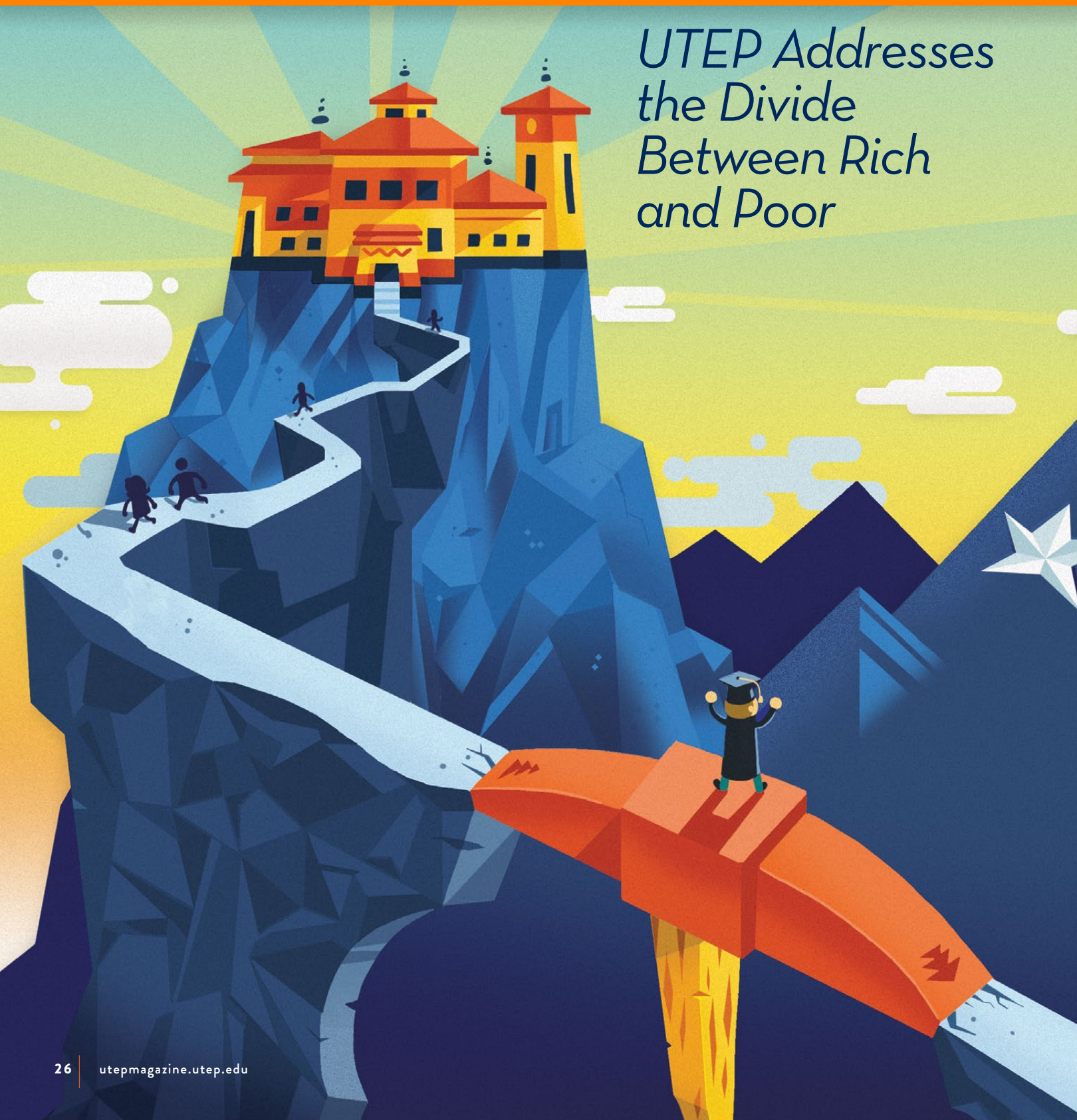
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CLOSING *the* GAP:

By Nadia M. Whitehead • Illustration by Adan Contreras '13

*UTEP Addresses
the Divide
Between Rich
and Poor*



A study published in February 2015 rocked the nation when it revealed that inequality between the haves and the have-nots is growing – specifically when it comes to higher education.

Despite years of effort to boost the number of historically underrepresented groups enrolled in college, income inequality is still a huge predictor of who graduates and who doesn't, according to the revealing report by The Pell Institute and the University of Pennsylvania.

THE TRUTH IS IN THE NUMBERS.

In 1970, 40 percent of students from the nation's highest-income families earned bachelor's degrees by the time they were 24, while just 6 percent of students from the lowest-income families (those making less than \$34,160) earned degrees. Forty-three years later, only 8.7 percent of students from the poorest families received bachelor's degrees, while degree attainment in the wealthiest quartile shot up to 77 percent.

But these discouraging national trends don't paint an accurate picture of The University of Texas at El Paso, where students from low-income backgrounds make up the majority of graduates.

Seventy-three percent of UTEP students who earned a bachelor's degree during the 2013-14 academic year received Pell Grants, which are awarded to students with financial need. The average annual family income of UTEP students in that same graduating class was \$30,031, placing them in the nation's lowest income group. Thirty-nine percent of their families earned less than \$20,000 a year.

"UTEP has made huge progress in becoming a national model for successfully closing income gap inequalities in higher education," said UTEP President Diana Natalicio. "Our mission of access and excellence – of affordability and quality – reflects UTEP's strong commitment to ensuring that all students who aspire to achieve

the American Dream will have an authentic opportunity to pursue it."

This progress is validated by the University's prestigious social mobility designation; for the last three years, UTEP has been named #1 among all U.S. universities for recruiting and graduating low-income students, according to Washington Monthly magazine. The University also has been recognized for its mission of access and excellence with its recent ranking as #6 in Best-Bang-for-the-Buck Colleges in the South and as one of "50 Schools You Should Know About" in Washington Monthly's recent book, "The Other College Guide: A Road Map to the Right School for You."

The success of so many UTEP students in climbing the educational ladder toward professional careers and enhanced quality of life is tied to a range of resources the University offers them.

From scholarships and on-campus jobs to low-cost day care services and collaboration with community colleges, the University strives to make it as easy as possible for financially challenged students to achieve their dreams.

Here are two of the many success stories that demonstrate how, even with a modest background, anyone with talent and motivation can earn a degree and achieve great things at UTEP.



Biochemistry student Veronica Escalante studies tuberculosis in the lab of biologist Hugues Oullet, Ph.D. Photos by Laura Trejo

Veronica Escalante

Undergraduate Research Pays Off

Twenty-two-year-old Veronica Escalante is a U.S. citizen who crosses the U.S.-Mexico border every morning. With a family income below \$20,000, Escalante can't afford a car. Instead, she rides the bus across the downtown Stanton Street Bridge and is dropped off a few blocks from campus.

Once at UTEP, Escalante settles in for the next eight to 12 hours. She attends biochemistry courses, conducts studies for her job as a research assistant and holds meetings for the UTEP chapter of the American Society of Microbiology, of which she is president.

In conversation, you can't tell Escalante has had a humble upbringing. The bright scholar who receives Pell Grants speaks confidently about her research on tuberculosis and how the disease may "feed on cholesterol" to survive and persist in the body. The first-generation college student also talks about going to graduate school and pursuing a Ph.D. in a field related to immunology or microbial diseases.

That future is absolutely attainable.

Escalante's resume already boasts an impressive summer research experience. Under the guidance of UTEP's Campus Office of Undergraduate Research Initiatives (COURI), Escalante applied to the Summer Research Training Program at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF). She was accepted and spent the summer of 2012 focusing on immunology at UCSF. Her salary, housing and travel were completely covered by the program.

"I think what has helped me grow and excel as a student are all the programs UTEP offers," she said. "Early on, COURI showed me all of the programs UTEP has that fund undergraduate researchers – something that many other universities don't have. At UCSF, I met a lot of people who said that programs that would fund them to conduct research are rare. Most of them had to get side jobs, outside of the university, to make a living. I'm so lucky that I get paid to do what I love here – research."

An assistant in the lab of biologist Hugues

Oullet, Ph.D., Escalante gets paid \$700 a month for her work. She says that if she weren't employed by UTEP, she would have to find a job outside of school, which would be difficult since she has no transportation.

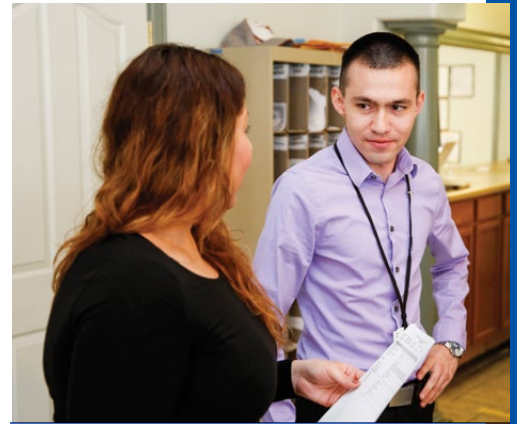
One other opportunity that supported Escalante's success was the Bridges to the Baccalaureate program, a partnership between El Paso Community College (EPCC) and UTEP. Originally a student at EPCC, Escalante received funds to support her transfer to a four-year baccalaureate program at UTEP.

After spending the entire day on campus, Escalante heads back to her home in Juárez at about 8 or 9 p.m. Exhausted, she goes to bed and prepares to do it all again the next day.

This summer Escalante will head to the University of Pittsburgh for another all-expenses-paid research experience. The highly talented and hardworking student expects to graduate in December 2015 with a B.S. in cellular and molecular biochemistry.



Andres
Arvizu



UTEP alumnus Andres Arvizu works as a substance abuse counselor at Aliviane. Photos by Ivan Pierre Aguirre

Student Jobs Provide Support and Funding

Andres Arvizu never imagined he would earn a bachelor's degree.

"I was always afraid of dropping out of college and letting my family down," he recalled. "I thought I would just make it to an associate degree and then become a police officer."

But in May 2015, Arvizu will do the unexpected. No, he won't be earning a bachelor's, but a master's degree in mental health counseling.

The formerly shy, self-doubting UTEP student now even talks about attaining a Ph.D. and opening his own counseling clinic.

What changed?

Originally from Juárez, Mexico, Arvizu's first language was Spanish. Determined to learn English, climb the ladder and receive the best education possible, Arvizu decided to move to El Paso at the age of 13. The transition was tough.

"Learning English was incredibly difficult for me," he said. "I was very concerned that I wouldn't be able to learn it well enough to

make it through college."

Arvizu's confidence was bolstered after he started working as an undergraduate in the office of University Relations. In addition to sharing the new income with his financially strained family, Arvizu loved the job.

When he wasn't studying for his psychology degree, Arvizu helped organize UTEP events like Commencement and Honors Convocation. Beto Lopez, assistant vice president for institutional advancement, mentored Arvizu and challenged him to focus on serving the community.


"UTEP has contributed to my success by all the opportunities they offered me," Arvizu said, pointing to Pell Grants and textbook rentals as some of the ways he saved money. "My student job was the biggest help, but I also like that the staff and faculty really do get involved with students."

Arvizu, who is a U.S. citizen, earned a bachelor's in psychology at the age of 23. He became the first person in his family to finish college and went to work as a substance abuse

counselor at Aliviane. There, he counsels clients who are battling addiction. Alcoholism runs in Arvizu's own family, so he feels particularly drawn to assisting others with similar issues.

Arvizu's strong work ethic has kept him working full time at the clinic while taking night courses to complete his master's degree.

Despite growing up in public housing with a family income of less than \$20,000, Arvizu has beaten the odds. He thanks UTEP for transforming his life and helping him become a valuable part of the community.

"The great thing about UTEP is that it's an open university; anyone can get in," he said. "That means that everyone is given an opportunity to succeed." 



Why Immigrant Neighborhoods Have Low Crime

By Lisa Y. Garibay • Photo by Laura Trejo

A team of UTEP student and faculty researchers canvassed neighborhoods to interview immigrants about crime. From left to right: Theodore Curry, Ph.D., associate professor of criminal justice; Miguel Zuniga; Katherine Reyes; Maria Cristina Morales, Ph.D., associate professor of sociology and anthropology; and Harmon Hosch, Ph.D., professor emeritus of psychology.



The University has hired five new research scientists who will work full-time at the NASA Johnson Space Center in Houston.

During the past year, 50 UTEP student researchers worked alongside three professors to create a methodologically sound survey, determine a geographic canvassing strategy, and conduct face-to-face polls with more than 1,100 people living in neighborhoods throughout El Paso County to prove a theory about immigration and crime that may surprise many.

“Poorer neighborhoods tend to have much higher levels of crime,” said Theodore Curry, Ph.D., associate professor of criminal justice. “Immigrant neighborhoods are poor neighborhoods,

but don’t have high levels of crime. So, the question becomes, ‘What is it about these neighborhoods that insulates them from the effects of poverty such that they don’t have high levels of crime?’”

Theories about why this is the case include the belief that immigrant neighborhoods are tight communities of families that are strongly connected to each other or that immigrants tend to be working and more invested in their community.

But until now, there has been no solid data to test these theories. A grant Curry secured has made it possible to acquire proof using El Paso as a model locale.

The project, titled “Why are Immigrant Neighborhoods Low Crime Neighborhoods? Testing Immigrant Revitalization Theory and Cultural Explanations,” was funded by a grant from the National Science Foundation. Curry serves as the principal investigator (PI) with co-PIs Maria Cristina Morales, Ph.D., associate professor of sociology and anthropology; and Professor Emeritus of Psychology Harmon Hosch, Ph.D.

After pounding the pavement, knocking on doors and conducting in-depth interviews with individuals who agreed to the survey, the team is armed with information that Curry hopes will

“dispel myths about immigrants, immigrant communities and the impact of immigration on our country.”

Adults from high-, medium- and low-immigrant neighborhood clusters were randomly selected to participate in the survey. Respondents were asked about their fear of crime, perception of social and physical disorder, and actual crime victimization. They also talked about how close they felt with their families and communities and the effectiveness of the local police.

Curry believes no other institutions are collecting data like this, making UTEP’s study even more groundbreaking.

“I know scholars who are already waiting to get their hands on this data to use for their own publications,” he said. “We just don’t have enough information on the facts of immigration and impacts on economy, education, use of social services and what have you.”

Alex R. Piquero, Ph.D., a criminology professor at The University of Texas at Dallas, believes Curry’s team’s project is both important and unique from a research perspective.

“It will offer much-needed knowledge about issues surrounding crime and immigration which have gone largely understudied, especially at the level of detail being carried out in El Paso,” Piquero said. “Perhaps more importantly, the findings that are sure to emerge from their effort will yield tremendous gains in knowledge that can help policy discussions surrounding issues related to immigration and crime.”

Hitting close to home at the University is the impact this research has had on the academic, personal and professional lives of the students who were involved as researchers. Most of these students represent El Paso’s working-class Hispanic population

“Poorer neighborhoods tend to have much higher levels of crime. Immigrant neighborhoods are poor neighborhoods, but don’t have high levels of crime. So, the question becomes, ‘What is it about these neighborhoods that insulates them from the effects of poverty such that they don’t have high levels of crime?’”

Theodore Curry, Ph.D.,
associate professor of
criminal justice

and many are from immigrant families. The study offered valuable participation for this underrepresented group in a realm that is often mysterious or closed off to them.

All students received course credit and research experience, while graduate students used the data for master’s-level theses.

Genesis Ruiz, a senior majoring in criminal justice, began participating as an interviewer in the spring of 2014 when she signed up for the course that was developed using this project as a model for research methods.

“When I first signed up for this course, it seemed a bit crazy,” said Ruiz, who was born and raised in Mexico City and became a U.S. citizen three years ago. “I had no idea what the results would be of me going to random homes asking for personal opinions on such a

delicate subject such as immigration.”

Ruiz, who works with the El Paso Police Department’s Victim Services Response Team, has witnessed how the immigrant community is willing to work with law enforcement more often than people might think.

“Police officers tell us all the time that the reason why El Paso is such a safe city is because of its citizens,” she said. “The community does choose to cooperate and work with law enforcement and that is what makes our city successful.”

Another master’s in sociology candidate, Guillermo Rivas, was a research team leader in charge of undergraduates conducting research as well as doing his own interviews.

“With all the immigration issues throughout the media and politics today, it is important to shed light on the true nature of the relationship that immigrants have with their new surroundings,” Rivas said.

Jorge Luis Hernández served on the project as a graduate research assistant beginning in June 2013 and plans to apply the data to his master’s thesis. Hernández, whose parents were born in Mexico, will graduate in May with a master’s in sociology.

“Growing up in an immigrant community, I always detected a sense of togetherness where everybody had each other’s backs and would help each other any way they can,” he said. “This is why I am perplexed when I hear certain politicians malign immigrants’ integrity, labeling them as criminals who are up to no good. Based on my personal experience and the research I have conducted, these claims couldn’t be further from the truth.”

The project’s data analysis process is just beginning. It will take a little more time to see which theories are supported and the ripple effect the study may have on policymaking, policing and public opinion. ➤

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THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO



Water Smart:

UTEP DESAL TECHNOLOGY TO SAVE MILLIONS OF GALLONS IN EL PASO

By Nadia M. Whitehead • Photo by J.R. Hernandez



Civil Engineering Professor Anthony Tarquin, Ph.D., left, and postdoctoral researcher Guillermo Delgado, Ph.D., will help El Paso save millions of gallons of water that go to waste every day.

49 million.

That's how many gallons of water the city of El Paso will soon be saving each year.

The colossal savings – enough to supply an additional 268 homes with their annual water needs – is possible thanks to a new, patent-pending development at The University of Texas at El Paso.

Dubbed the Concentrate Enhanced Recovery Reverse Osmosis (CERRO) process, the technology was invented by Anthony Tarquin, Ph.D., an engineer who is concerned about dwindling water in arid regions. CERRO works by taking current water desalination methods a step further.

"These units are for treating water that is normally thrown away," said Tarquin, who has been studying water conservation for the last 45 years.

The city currently has 11 well sites, the professor of civil engineering explained. Pipes at these locations run some 300 to 400 feet below ground to an aquifer, an underground reservoir of water. In order to make use of the subterranean resource, the city must pump the water to the surface.

But the water doesn't come up from the ground clean; it is heavily concentrated with salt. Before it can be used, it must be desalinated.

A desalination system on site actively removes the salt, purifying about three-quarters of the water that is pumped up. Because current technology is limited, the remaining 25 percent of the water pumped from the well is left concentrated with salt. Deemed unusable, the salty concentrate ends up in the region's wastewater treatment facilities and is ultimately dumped in the sewer as waste.

"Some of these wells discard 80 gallons a minute; that amounts to a lot of water discarded in a single day," Tarquin said. For example, a single well can throw away about 100,000 gallons of water per day.

To conserve this water, Tarquin and postdoctoral researcher Guillermo

Delgado, Ph.D., designed CERRO; it can be applied to the leftover saltwater concentrate to recover more water.

"Once we are done, we're hoping that instead of dumping about 25 percent of the water into the sewer, only six percent will be disposed," said Delgado, who received his doctorate in civil engineering from UTEP.

Interested in taking advantage of the novel system, El Paso Water Utilities (EPWU) and the Bureau of Reclamation recently provided the research team with funds to install the system at three El Paso well sites.

The installation would save the city from discarding about 49 million gallons of water a year. It would also lead to EPWU purchasing less water from El Paso County Water Improvement District No. 1, resulting in a savings of at least \$42,000 a year.

CERRO will be installed at the three wells this summer. If the systems are as successful as the researchers estimate, they will be considered for installation at all 11 El Paso well sites and the Kay Bailey Hutchison Desalination Plant.

Installation at the local plant, which is Tarquin's ultimate goal, could provide the city with more than 977 million gallons of additional water a year.

Fernie Rico, EPWU's chief operations manager and a UTEP alumnus, said CERRO is being installed because "sustainability is paramount" in the desert Southwest. He added that by working together, EPWU and UTEP have the opportunity to create a cutting-edge water utility service for the city.

"El Paso Water Utilities must continue to plan ahead and have a water supply portfolio that is ready for emergencies, droughts and future growth," Rico said.

Delgado couldn't agree more.

"We're reaching a point here in El Paso where every drop counts," he said. "We need to become more efficient with our water, and this project is a step in the right direction." ✉

"Once we are done, we're hoping that instead of dumping about 25 percent of the water into the sewer, only six percent will be disposed."

Guillermo Delgado, Ph.D., postdoctoral researcher

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Left: At the Paso del Norte Institute for Healthy Living, team members walk on treadmills while they work at their desks. Alisha Redelfs (sitting), deputy director for research and evaluation, eats an apple while Leah Whigham, executive director, walks on a treadmill in her office.

Right: The institute's community partners include, from front to back, Veronica Rodriguez, PDNIHL administrative analyst; Leah Whigham; Collin Payne, New Mexico State University associated professor; Alisha Redelfs; and Mihai Niculescu, NMSU assistant professor.

Healthy Eating and Active Living Are Key to Region's Health

By Laura L. Acosta • Photo by Laura Trejo

The Paso del Norte Institute for Healthy Living has a plan to encourage residents in West Texas, Southern New Mexico and Juárez, Mexico, to eat more fruits and vegetables and lead more active lives by 2019.

Established by the Paso del Norte Health Foundation (PdNHF) in 2013, the institute's four institutional partners, including The University of Texas at El Paso, are collaborating with community organizations to implement innovative and sustainable solutions to increase healthy eating and active living in the region.

To do that, the institute will carry out the goals outlined in the PdNHF's Healthy Eating and Active Living (HEAL) strategic plan, the first of which is to increase the amount of fruits and vegetables consumed by children and adults in the Paso del Norte region by five percent by December 2019.

According to national data from 2009, 23 percent of adults in El Paso County eat the recommended five servings or more of fruits and vegetables daily. That number is on par with state and national levels.

In New Mexico, only 17 percent of adults in Otero County and 20 percent in Doña Ana County consume five or more servings of fruits and vegetables per day. There is no data for Hudspeth County or Juárez.

"Our vision is to accomplish the HEAL goals by using a variety of techniques," said Michael Kelly, vice president of programs for the Paso del Norte Health Foundation. The Paso del Norte Institute for Healthy Living serves as the organizing agency for HEAL initiatives. "Some activities will focus on individuals or their families, such as teaching people how to select and prepare more nutritious food. Other activities will attempt to modify systems and environments, such as school cafeterias and gardens. Still other activities will influence policy at the municipal and state level."

Goals also include promoting portion control; increasing physical activity and decreasing sedentary behavior; creating an environment that promotes healthy eating and active living without bias against obesity; and achieving long-term sustainability of institute and HEAL initiatives.

Ready, Set, Go

Throughout 2014, Leah Whigham, the institute's executive director, and experts from its partner institutions – PdNHF; UTEP; The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, School of Public Health El Paso Campus; and Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center Paul L. Foster School of Medicine – gathered baseline data to identify available resources and designate priority areas in the region.

They conducted focus groups, phone and in-person interviews and surveys with physicians, administrators, nutritionists, teachers and students in three sectors - community at large, health care and schools.

"It was that process, the quantitative and qualitative (gathering of information), that led to these objectives," Whigham explained. "We had doctors and community leaders telling us they need more low-cost or no-cost resources in their community to refer people for physical activity and healthy eating, so one of our objectives is that by December 2019 the region will have at least three new affordable community



HEAL resources to which providers can refer patients.”

Initiatives also aim to encourage people to reduce their sedentary behavior and become more physically active.

One of the objectives in the strategic plan is to develop a master bike-walk trail plan that incorporates a 4-mile section of the Playa Drain that stretches from Ascarate Park to Riverside High School in El Paso’s Lower Valley.

“We all need physical activity for cardiovascular health,” Whigham said. “The recommendation is 30 minutes a day or about 150 minutes a week for adults, and 60 minutes a day for kids.”

Building Partnerships

To accomplish these goals, the Paso del Norte Institute for Healthy Living will work with multiple community partners and grantees to develop successful projects to meet the institute’s vision of healthy eating and active living.

Whigham; Alisha Redelfs, Dr.P.H., deputy director for Research and Evaluation; and Veronica Rodriguez, the Paso del Norte

Institute for Healthy Living’s administrative analyst, are working with community partners such as Eat Well! El Paso to evaluate their efforts, provide technical assistance and coordinate regional activity. A deputy director for policy and programming will be hired in the next few months.

“Things come together so much more smoothly in the Healthy Eating and Active Living community when we have the direction and insight that the Institute for Healthy Living offers,” said Joy D. Leos, Eat Well! El Paso health project coordinator. The El Paso Department of Public Health program aims to improve the local food environment by expanding healthy food options for children and their families. “There are so many different things to work on in our field that instead of everyone doing our own thing and hoping it works, the institute has helped us figure out the exact direction we want to head in for the next five years.”

Measuring Success

To evaluate the impact of some of the programs, the Paso del Norte Institute for Healthy Living recently acquired a device to

assess fruit and vegetable consumption across the Paso del Norte region.

The device uses a technique called reflectance spectroscopy, which involves shining a light on the skin of the hand to measure carotenoids in the skin. Carotenoids are compounds found in fruits and vegetables, such as beta-carotene in carrots.

Volunteers place their finger in the device, about the size and shape of an electric pencil sharpener, for 20 seconds while the light interacts with carotenoids in the skin. The amount of carotenoids represents the person’s fruit and vegetable intake.

The institute is the first in the region to have the technology, and it will be shared with other researchers, including New Mexico State University marketing faculty members Collin Payne, Ph.D., and Mihai Niculescu, Ph.D., who want to use the methodology to assess changes in fruit and vegetable intake.

With a grant from the PdNHF, Payne and Niculescu used in-store marketing techniques to encourage shoppers at five Lowe’s Pay-N-Save grocery stores to buy more fresh fruits and vegetables.

Their efforts resulted in a 10 percent increase in produce purchases. The researchers plan to use the technology to measure if shoppers are eating those fruits and vegetables they purchased.

“We’re trying to increase produce purchases but we don’t know what exactly that translates into in terms of consumption,” Payne said. “Our goal is to find evidence that increases in purchases are actually resulting in increases in consumption. Being able to collaborate with the Institute for Healthy Living - incorporating their technologies and Leah Whigham’s expertise - we’re really lucky to have this institute in our area.”

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UTEP Forges Closer Ties with NASA

By Nadia M. Whitehead • Photos by Mike Rushing/Jacobs



The University has hired five new research scientists who will work full-time at the NASA Johnson Space Center in Houston.

The University of Texas at El Paso now has an even closer relationship with the world's most renowned space agency – NASA.

Five new research scientists recently were hired by the University to work at the NASA Johnson Space Center (JSC) in Houston. The scientists, who are considered leading experts in their fields, will conduct aerospace studies at JSC to further UTEP and NASA's mission of ensuring space flight safety.

"These employees will be studying what is perhaps the greatest threat to human space exploration – orbital debris," said John "Danny" Olivas, Ph.D., former NASA astronaut and director of space initiatives at UTEP.

The new hires are part of a larger step that UTEP has taken toward becoming a national research institution.

In August 2014, the University signed a five-year, \$5 million contract with NASA JSC's primary contractor, Jacobs

Technology. In addition to providing funds for the five new, space-specialized staff members, the partnership established multiple collaborative opportunities for University faculty and students to participate in hands-on research for the legendary space agency.

The contract bolsters current research projects by allowing UTEP aerospace specialists access to JSC's cutting-edge facilities, equipment and expertise. UTEP's Center for the Advancement of Space Safety and Mission Assurance (CASSMAR) and the Center for Space Exploration Technology Research (cSETR) may particularly benefit.

"There are multiple opportunities for us now, from conducting research at NASA to providing our students with tremendous hands-on experiences and job opportunities at JSC," Olivas said. "This partnership will lead to UTEP having a greater footprint in the space industry."

Darren Cone, executive director of CASSMAR, said he is excited to work with

the new research scientists.

"These researchers represent a new linkage between UTEP and the manned spaceflight arena," Cone said. "The interdisciplinary nature of their research at NASA JSC is a perfect complement to ongoing UTEP initiatives that emphasize and promote cross-cutting research toward a common objective. In their case, the objective is to protect the astronauts aboard the International Space Station and other crewed vehicles from the potentially catastrophic hazards of orbital debris impacts."

Over the course of the spring 2015 semester, the research scientists will visit UTEP to learn what it means to be a Miner and to present seminars on their areas of expertise. The seminars are expected to attract faculty and students within the colleges of Science and Engineering who are interested in collaborating on space initiatives, setting the stage for future, cutting-edge research projects.



Yu-Lin Xu

Education: Ph.D. in astronomy from the University of Florida

Research Focus:

Xu specializes in computational physics, radar data analysis and spacecraft data interpretation. One of his focuses is creating models of the orbital debris environment.

What's been your biggest career accomplishment so far?

"I developed a rigorous, complete light-scattering solution, known as the Generalized Multiparticle Mie Theory (GMM), which is capable of accurately predicting the radiative scattering characteristics of multiple material-body systems."

Why did you decide to join the UTEP team?

"I joined the University to seek potential collaborations with UTEP professors and researchers across departments that share mutual interest in my scientific and technical area of research."

James Frith

Education: Ph.D. in astronomy from the University of Hertfordshire

Research Focus: Frith studies exoplanet atmospheres, low-mass stars, satellite design, telescope instrumentation and the characterization of on-orbit, manmade objects.

What's been your biggest career accomplishment so far?

"I sort of have about 8,000 red dwarf stars named after me. I mean, I don't own them or anything and I think the only ones who actually know that I named them are the people at the journal of the Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society – and like 3 others – but I'm still going to take that as a win."

Why did you decide to join the UTEP team?

"I have many different research interests, so working for a high-quality research and teaching institution like UTEP would provide a great forum in which to pursue funding and opportunities to develop these interests further. That and getting access to better salsa. I have been seeing El Paso-brand salsa in the stores for years now and I am excited to experience it fresh in its hometown. Oh, and one of my bosses is an ex-astronaut (Danny Olivas); that's kind of cool."

Daniel Kent Ross

Education: Ph.D. in geochemistry from the University of Houston

Research Focus: Ross studies chondritic meteorites, Martian meteorites, planetary geology and lunar geology.

What's been your most interesting career accomplishment thus far?

"I participated in a research cruise to the Atlantis fracture zone located on the mid-Atlantic ridge. The cruise resulted in the discovery of a new type of seafloor surface where geothermally heated water is emitted – hydrothermal chimneys that are less than 60 meters tall. I also once dove more than a mile deep in the ocean in the research submarine Alvin; we were investigating the tectonics that generated a large mountain."

Why did you decide to join the UTEP team?

"I'm excited about involving UTEP students in NASA's research efforts and providing new outreach opportunities."

Heather Cowardin

Education: Ph.D. in space physics from the University of Houston

Research Focus:

Cowardin's dissertation and research focus on characterizing orbital debris using laboratory measurements.

What's been your biggest career accomplishment thus far?

"I designed the Optical Measurement Center located at NASA JSC, which is the first laboratory of its kind that allows for photometric and spectroscopic measurements of spacecraft materials and small satellites in a simulated dark space environment. I was also awarded the NASA Johnson Space Center Director's Innovation Award in 2014, as well as the NASA contractor Innovation of the Year Award in 2012."

Why did you decide to join the UTEP team?

"I'm hoping that my ideas and subject matter expertise will lead to new collaborations with UTEP in the materials science department related to the characterization of orbital debris. I am also looking forward to expanding research in the field of in-situ orbital debris sensors with the newly formed NASA-UTEP partnership."

Joshua E. Miller


Education: Ph.D. in mechanical engineering from the University of Rochester

Research Focus: Miller studies how space systems respond to high impact speeds that are typical of orbital and interplanetary spaceflight. He also focuses on how to better shield these systems from high-speed impacts.

What's been your biggest career accomplishment so far?

"I would say that my biggest accomplishment has been developing a suite of analytical and numerical impact models that have improved our ability to predict the survivability of space-based systems."

Why did you decide to join the UTEP team?

"I decided to join the UTEP team because of the similarities between CASSMARS's mission and my functional position here at Johnson Space Center along with the ability to work and collaborate closely with high-caliber UTEP faculty and students and the institute's strong research collaboration network." 



Grants **Roundup**

Between November 2014 and March 2015, The University of Texas at El Paso received research grants to study a range of topics. The following is a sampling of grant research started during that five-month period.

Biology

Igor C. Almeida, Ph.D., professor of biological sciences, and co-principal investigator **Katja Michael**, Ph.D., associate professor of chemistry, received funding from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases to continue studying a potential vaccine for Chagas disease, a devastating and neglected tropical illness. The team recently developed a vaccine that fully protected mice against the lethal, parasitic infection.

Crime

Assistant Professor of Psychology **Caleb Lloyd**, Ph.D., received a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice for a research project titled "Research on Offender Decision-Making

and Desistance from Crime." The longitudinal study will test the progression of crime and desistance cognitions among parolees and probationers at three sites (Austin, Texas; Des Moines, Iowa; San Francisco, California) who are at risk within the community.

Engineering

Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering **Eric MacDonald**, Ph.D., received funding from the National Science Foundation to create metamaterials – manmade materials engineered to have superior properties – using 3-D printing. The final product will be a material with negative stiffness.

Patricia Nava, Ph.D., associate dean of the College of Engineering, and co-principal investigator **Benjamin Flores**, Ph.D., professor of electrical and computer engineering, received a grant from Virginia Tech to study students who transfer to four-year universities and how to encourage their pursuit of an engineering degree. The research will focus on Hispanics, a minority group who earned only 10 percent of all engineering degrees awarded in the U.S. in 2007.

Pavana Prabhakar, Ph.D., assistant professor of mechanical engineering, received a grant from the Air Force Office of Scientific Research to study and design novel structural materials for use in aircraft, spacecraft and automobiles. Her goal is to create lightweight materials that are stronger and more energy-conserving than current products on the market.

Bill Tseng, Ph.D., professor and chair of industrial, manufacturing and systems engineering, and co-principal investigator **Hilario Gamez**, director of the Texas Manufacturing Assistance Center (TMAC), received funding from the National Institute of Standards and Technology to continue working to enhance the competitiveness of the state's manufacturing sector. TMAC, a center located on the UTEP campus, has operated for the past 19 years. It helps manufacturing professionals work with a wide range of industrial firms, delivering training, providing technical assistance and implementing best business practices.

Vivek Tandon, Ph.D., associate professor of civil engineering, received three grants from the Texas Department of Transportation. One of the studies will be in collaboration with The University of Texas at Austin to develop a nonproprietary, low-cost treatment approach that can restore texture to deteriorated highway surfaces.

Environment

Timothy Collins, Ph.D., associate professor of geography, received a grant from the National Science Foundation for the project "REU For Collaborative Research: Advancing Environmental Equity Research: Vulnerability to Air Pollution and Flood Risks in Houston and Miami." This supplemental grant will support research experiences for two undergraduate students, who will form part of an interdisciplinary research team that also includes investigators from the University of South Florida. The project aims to address limitations associated with current environmental justice research and

practice, and advance knowledge of social and spatial influences on residential exposure to environmental hazards. **Sara Grineski**, Ph.D., associate professor of sociology, serves as the project's co-principal investigator.

Physics Professor **Rosa Fitzgerald**, Ph.D., received a grant from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to study the Paso del Norte region's ozone production. Fitzgerald will calculate the rate at which ozone is created in the area and also evaluate how emissions from Juárez, Mexico, contribute to the problem.

Geology

Professor of Geological Sciences **Terry Pavlis**, Ph.D., and co-principal investigator **Jose Hurtado**, Ph.D., associate professor of geological sciences, received funds from the U.S. Geological Survey to study faulting and seismic hazards in the El Paso metropolitan area. Both students and professionals from El Paso and northern Mexico will be involved in the study and trained on how to conduct paleoseismology research. The information learned will be applied to local hazard assessments and disseminated to the community.

Health Sciences

Feng Yang, Ph.D., assistant professor in the Department of Kinesiology, and co-principal investigators **Loretta Dillon**, DPT, associate clinical professor in the Doctor of Physical Therapy program, and **Xiaogang Su**, Ph.D., associate professor in the mathematical sciences department, received a grant from

the Retirement Research Foundation to study the effects of controlled whole-body vibration training on preventing falls among older Hispanic adults. Yang also received a grant from the National Multiple Sclerosis Society to examine the effects of controlled whole-body vibration training on reducing falls among individuals with multiple sclerosis.

Peer-Led Team Learning

Geoffrey Saupe, Ph.D., associate professor of chemistry, received a grant from the National Science Foundation for his innovative approach to continue peer-led team learning (PLTL) programs after their funding ends. Saupe developed a new way to support the UTEP PLTL program's financial costs by printing and publishing PLTL learning materials for other instructors to use. The successful model will be shared with other college campuses so that they can continue their own PLTL programs after government funding terminates.

Psychology

Professor of Psychology **Felipe Castro**, Ph.D., was awarded a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation for his project titled "Theoretical Congruence and Sustainability of Local Adaptation." The study will examine the rural adaptation of the original "Keepin' it REAL" evidence-based intervention, which has been effective in preventing alcohol, tobacco and illegal drug use among urban middle school adolescents. 📍

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“ I was more of a basketball player and then I found my love for track because of its individuality.”

Jalycia Pearson

Former 'Army Brat' Finds Home in El Paso

By Aaron Hyder • Photos by Ivan Pierre Aguirre

Traveling, seeing new places; it's something that many people dream about. Senior Jallycia Pearson has done plenty of it. Growing up in a military family, she moved around a lot. Then came her father's last duty station – Fort Bliss.

For eight years, Pearson has called El Paso home. At Coronado High School, she set four school records that still stand. As a senior, she led the Coronado girls' squad to the 2011 District 1-5A Track and Field Championship. Individually, she ran to a sixth-place finish at the 2011 University Interscholastic League Texas 5A State Track and Field Championships in the 100-meter hurdles. She also had a seventh-place showing in the triple jump with a leap of 11.64 meters.

"I started track in high school," Pearson said. "I was more of a basketball player and then I found my love for track because of its individuality."

Choosing UTEP was an easy choice for the self-described "Army brat."

"I was used to moving a lot," Pearson said. "I was born in North Carolina and I moved to El Paso for high school, and my dad ended up deciding to retire here."

Her stellar career at UTEP took off when she was named to the All-American second team her junior year. She notched a 15th-place finish by tallying 5,397 points. The senior also holds records in Conference USA and at UTEP for most points recorded in a single heptathlon when she scored 5,576 points during the 2014 outdoor conference championships. Pearson also broke the University pentathlon record when she scored 3,868 points at the 2015 Texas A&M Invitational.

Pearson also was instrumental in the success of the women's track and field team this spring. She led the team to its first conference title in program history. The El Paso native notched a second-place finish in the pentathlon with 3,766 points, and she also ran to a fourth-place finish in the 60-meter hurdles.

"It took me a while to call El Paso my home because I'm so used to moving," the senior kinesiology major said. "But since I

grew the most here, I consider it my home. Before coming to El Paso, moving every two years was the norm. Nothing really was home for me except my family."

The past four years at UTEP, whether in the classroom or on the track, have been a gradual process of learning for Pearson.

"The thing that helped me the most about being a student-athlete was an agenda," she said. "I'm allowed to put everything down I need to do such as sleeping, studying, classes or practice times. It makes my time management more organized and that really helped me out from the beginning of my freshman year. I have a schedule and routine I like to stick with. Even for warming up to compete I have a routine, so that has helped me, too."

Multi-events coach Lacena Golding Clarke noted that Pearson's career has been a steady progression.

"She has come a long way," Golding Clarke said. "She is very persistent. This year, she will be well above 5,500 (points) in the heptathlon, hoping to get another qualifying bid for the NCAA Outdoor Championships."

During her downtime, Pearson is an avid reader. She also uses other techniques to stay relaxed.

"I like to read," Pearson said. "I just started doing yoga, which I really like. I like to hike and I love nature. I like to go every Sunday because it helps me take my mind off things after a meet."

Pearson expects to graduate in December 2015 and wants to become a physical therapist. While her post-graduation plans aren't finalized, Pearson is leaning toward pursuing a master's degree.

"My plans after college are still up in the air," she said. "I'm not too sure what the future has in store for me, but grad school is one of the options." ☒

C-USA Track Championships Coming to El Paso

The 2015 Conference USA Outdoor Track and Field Championships will return to the Sun City May 14-17, 2015, for the first time since 2008. Twenty-two teams (13 men's and nine women's) will take over Kidd Field in hopes of claiming a conference title.

This will be the third time that UTEP has hosted the Conference USA meet for the outdoor season. During the prior two meets, the UTEP men's track and field team came away victorious.

In 2006, UTEP's first year in Conference USA, the Miners edged out Houston for the team title by 3.5 points (222-218.5). In 2008, the UTEP men's team captured its second title by scoring 16.5 more points than Houston. The women's team finished in second place during both years.

For this year's championship, the women's team will feature distance runner Joan Jepkirui, sprinter Ada Benjamin, hurdler Greta Kerekes and heptathlete Jallycia Pearson. Each looks to rack up as many points possible for the women.

For the men, Anthony Rotich and Cosmas Boit will attempt to remain dominant in distance runs, and sprinter Abiola Onakoya hopes for a strong performance for his last conference meet.

For a detailed schedule of championship events, visit utepathletics.com.

Ticket prices for the championship meet are \$4 per day for students and children under 12 and \$8 for adults per day, or \$20 for a four-day pass.



Sophomore Standout

AIYANNA STIVERNE IS A SPRINTER TO WATCH

By Aaron Hyder • Photos by Ivan Pierre Aguirre

Miami to El Paso. It's not a path often traveled, but for sophomore Aiyanna Stiverne, it turned out to be an interesting one. She nearly missed out on the trek to El Paso, but the dominoes fell in the right place, at the right time.

Sprint coach Davian Clarke was key in convincing Stiverne to head West. Clarke and Jean Stiverne, Aiyanna's father, were acquaintances.

"I actually didn't find out about El Paso until three weeks before I needed to be there," Stiverne said. "My dad knew Coach Clarke from the University of Miami. I had recently gotten a release from the previous school I had signed with. It just worked out."

In her first year competing for the Orange and Blue, Stiverne made an immediate impact. She was the second leg of the 4x400 meter indoor relay team that took first place at the Conference USA Championships with a time of 3:41.80. She also was named NCAA Honorable Mention for her involvement in the 4x100 meter outdoor relay team that ran a 45.03 at the NCAA Championships.

Perhaps her proudest moment during her freshman year came after the collegiate season ended. She was invited to represent the United States in the World Junior Championships held in Eugene, Oregon. This event featured the top track and field athletes

under the age of 19 from around the world.

Stiverne was selected as an alternate for the 4x400 meter relay team. Although she did not get to compete in Eugene, it was an experience that she will never forget; it helped fuel her desire for greatness.

"World Juniors helped with my confidence a lot," Stiverne said. "I did not get to compete on the world stage, which was a little bit disappointing, but it motivated me to work a lot harder."

The summer ended, and back to El Paso she went, ready to start her second year of college. Stiverne wants to become a forensic pathologist and is a clinical laboratory sciences major.

For some athletes, the move from high school to college academics can be a strenuous task, but her academic transition from Miami to UTEP has been a pretty smooth process, thanks to her mother's help.

"My mom actually stayed on top of me through high school because she was a teacher," Stiverne said. "She knew what I needed to do and where I needed to be. I





took AP classes, so it's nothing new, but it is a little bit different because there is nobody forcing me to do my work. It made me more independent. I used to procrastinate a lot, but now, at this point, I have no choice but to do my work."

Stiverne's family has played a huge role in her success on and off the track. One of her biggest role models has been her cousin, Bermame Stiverne, who is a professional boxer. Seeing his success firsthand has left an impression on her work ethic.

"He's come through a lot, and done a lot of things basically from nothing," Aiyanna Stiverne said. "It kind of makes me feel like we're all going up together. It is very inspiring, especially when it's family."

Whether it has been her mother, father or cousin, Stiverne has been surrounded by successful individuals her whole life who have helped her get to this point. Like any other college student-athlete, Stiverne also has other hobbies that take her mind off things.

"I watch movies, Netflix of course," Stiverne said. "I draw, and play the piano

a little bit, but most of the time I'm on the track."

With two years of eligibility remaining, Stiverne's capabilities are unlimited. Her coach, Clarke, has big plans for the sprinter.

"I hope that by her senior year, she'll be one of the top runners in the NCAA," Clarke said.

Earlier this spring, Stiverne helped the UTEP women's track and field team claim its first conference title in program history. The sophomore finished second in the 400-meter dash, sixth in the 200-meter dash and was a member of the first-place 4x400 meter relay team.

A move from Miami to El Paso is a culture shock for anyone, but El Paso has grown on Stiverne.

"It's a lot different, but I think it's a good environment for school, especially because you don't have too many distractions," Stiverne said. "It's a really good city and I enjoy it." 📍

FOOTBALL IS BACK

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- UTEP INCARNATE WORD 9/26
- UTSA 10/3
- FAU FLORIDA ATLANTIC 10/24
- RICE 11/7
- LA TECH LA TECH 11/21

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Whether it's the softball field, the golf course, the basketball court or the classroom, these athletes give it their all.

Photos by J.R. Hernandez

Senior Davina Meza was named to the 2014 All-Conference USA singles third team in her first season with the Miners. The native of Auckland, New Zealand, forged a team-best 24-11 overall mark in singles play during the 2013-14 season, while she teamed up with Miner great Rebeca Calvillo on the doubles court to complete a 23-9 overall record. Her 23 doubles victories during her junior campaign are tied for most all time for a single season. Meza, who is the team captain, also excelled in the classroom her first year, earning a spot on the 2014 Conference USA Commissioner's Honor Roll.

DAVINA MEZA

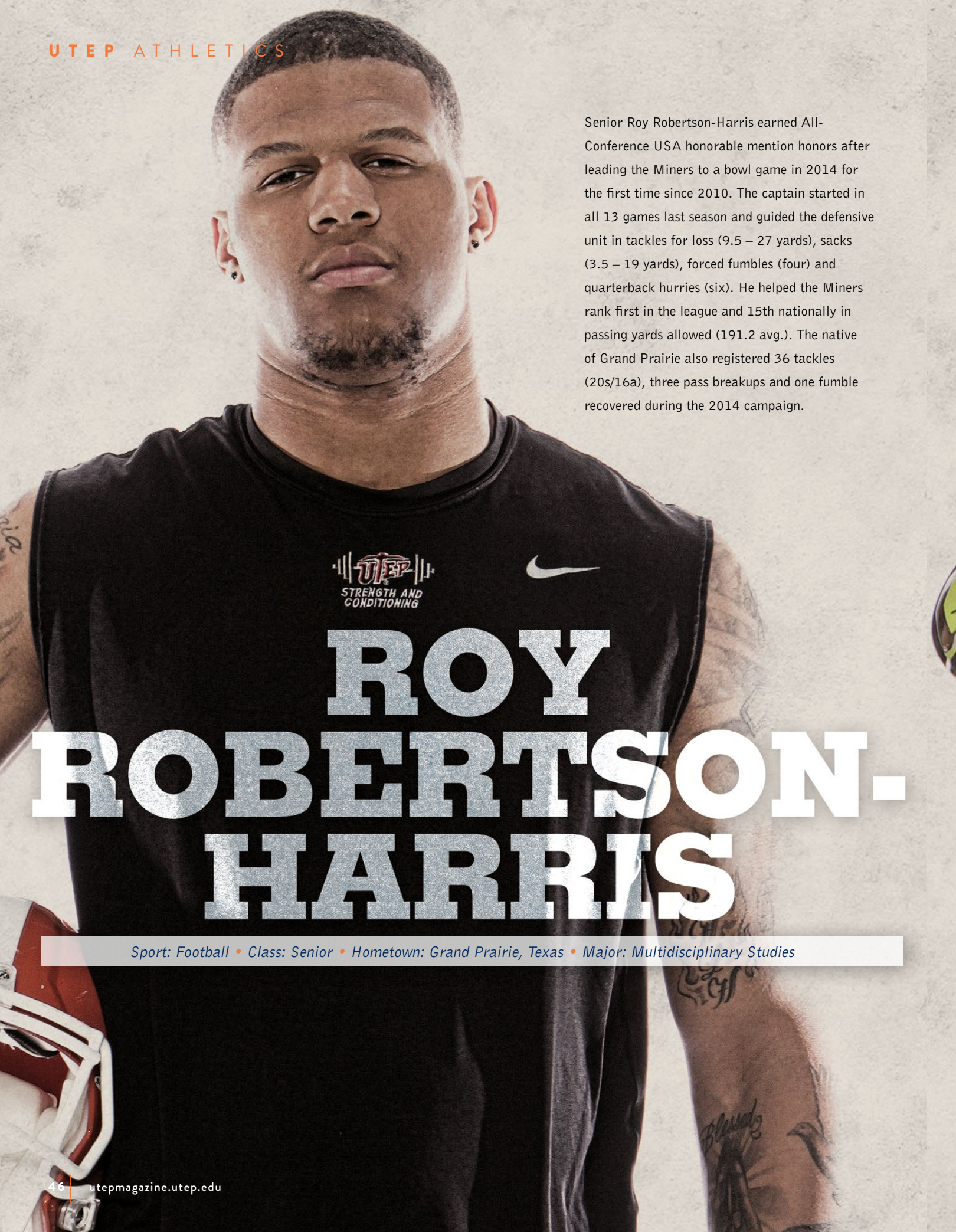
Sport: Tennis • Class: Senior • Hometown: Auckland, New Zealand • Major: Organizational and Corporate Communication

While growing up in Guadalajara, Mexico, Sofia Castiello dreamt of playing golf for a Division I school. Unfortunately, she was lightly recruited and had to spend a year at a Division II institution (Northeastern State) to fulfill her goal. After recording six top-10 finishes for the Riverhawks, she earned a scholarship at UTEP and now has three years of eligibility with the Miners. Her UTEP career is off to a promising start as she ranked second on the team in scoring average through six tournaments this season.

SO FIA CASTIELLO

Sport: Golf • Class: Sophomore • Hometown: Guadalajara, Mexico • Major: Communication

Senior Roy Robertson-Harris earned All-Conference USA honorable mention honors after leading the Miners to a bowl game in 2014 for the first time since 2010. The captain started in all 13 games last season and guided the defensive unit in tackles for loss (9.5 – 27 yards), sacks (3.5 – 19 yards), forced fumbles (four) and quarterback hurries (six). He helped the Miners rank first in the league and 15th nationally in passing yards allowed (191.2 avg.). The native of Grand Prairie also registered 36 tackles (20s/16a), three pass breakups and one fumble recovered during the 2014 campaign.



ROY ROBERTSON- HARRIS

Sport: Football • Class: Senior • Hometown: Grand Prairie, Texas • Major: Multidisciplinary Studies

A sophomore hailing from Birkerød, Denmark, Frederik Dreier has been a steady presence for the UTEP men's golf team. Through 17 career tournaments, Dreier holds a scoring average of 73.6. In fall 2014, he fired a career-low score of 67 in a round at the Price's Give 'Em Five Invitational hosted by UTEP. He has been UTEP's top finisher at six tournaments, and he has claimed four top-10 finishes during his young career. 🏌️

FREDERIK DREIER

Sport: Golf • Class: Sophomore • Hometown: Birkerød, Denmark • Major: Business Administration

Meet the Alumni Relations Staff

By Rachel Anna Neff, Ph. D. • Photo by J.R. Hernandez

Margie Brickey

Coordinator of Chapter Development

Works with constituents to build chapters, networks and special interest groups of UTEP alumni across the country and around the world. She coordinates events locally, nationally and internationally to engage alumni to create a lifelong connection to UTEP.

Victoria McKellips

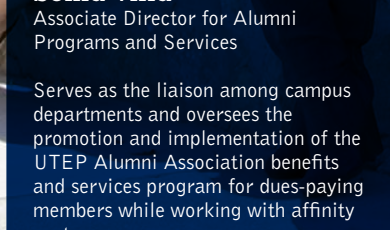
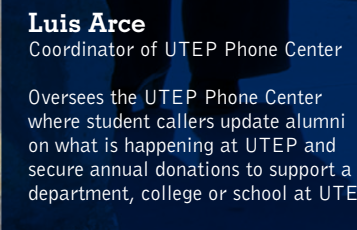
Coordinator of Membership and Marketing

Produces the marketing campaigns for alumni events. She also coordinates alumni membership acquisition and retention campaigns.

Miguel A. Gutierrez

Assistant Director for Business Operations

Analyzes and tracks monthly departmental budgeting and accounting records. He prepares financial reports for the UTEP Alumni Association and assists in the preparation of its annual operating budget.



Luis Arce

Coordinator of UTEP Phone Center

Oversees the UTEP Phone Center where student callers update alumni on what is happening at UTEP and secure annual donations to support a department, college or school at UTEP.

Judith Heredia-Perry

Assistant to the Associate Vice President

Supports and coordinates events and meetings for the UTEP Alumni Association Board of Directors and the UTEP Heritage Commission. She works closely with Richard J. Daniel to ensure workflow efficiency and assists with alumni and student awards programs.

Sonia Villa

Associate Director for Alumni Programs and Services

Serves as the liaison among campus departments and oversees the promotion and implementation of the UTEP Alumni Association benefits and services program for dues-paying members while working with affinity partners.



Margo Yanez

Administrative Assistant

Welcomes all guests at the front desk or on the telephone. She fields all questions regarding membership and event purchases, and handles RSVPs.

Richard J. Daniel, Ph.D.

Associate Vice President for University Advancement and Special Projects and Executive Director for Alumni Relations

Ensures that UTEP connects with its more than 100,000 alumni to establish a lifelong affinity with the University. He works with the Alumni Association Board of Directors to develop a comprehensive strategic plan for alumni engagement, to generate revenue sources and to provide services and programs for alumni and students.

Jackie Reed

Coordinator for Student, Parent and Alumni Programs

Plans events and facilitates the engagement of a wide constituency. She works with the Student Alumni Association, Miner Ambassadors and Young Alumni groups. In addition, she coordinates programs and events for the Parents Association and is responsible for Golden Grad reunions.

Peter & Margaret de V...
Alumni Relations
Association

Monica Corchado

Associate Director for Alumni Engagement

Oversees the planning and implementation of programs designed to cultivate and engage alumni throughout the country. This includes working with chapters and networks to assist them in identifying the best programs and events to offer their constituents.

Lizabeth Rodriguez

Administrative Assistant II

Places and expedites all purchase orders and prepares reconciliation reports. She is the primary contact for ensuring compliance with all vendors for payment, accounts receivable, accounts payable, travel and reimbursements. ➤



All five members of the Lizárraga family including, from left, Cecilia "Cissy" Lizárraga, Elizabeth Zamir Lizárraga, Marisa Lizárraga, Marcos Lizárraga and Vanessa Lizárraga (center), are proud UTEP graduates.

By Laura L. Acosta
Photo courtesy of Lizárraga Family

At UTEP, Family Matters

A couple of weeks before Christmas, Marcos Lizárraga gave his wife, and each of their three daughters UTEP alumni T-shirts.

The Lizárraga's youngest daughter, Vanessa Lizárraga, graduated from The University of Texas at El Paso with a degree in history on Dec. 13, 2014, and became the last member of their family to join the Miner Nation.

"When Vanessa graduated, I thought, 'How many families have five people who graduated from UTEP?'" said Marcos Lizárraga, a 1979 UTEP alumnus who is now a judge of the 168th District Court in El Paso. "The [university] Bookstore was selling T-shirts outside the [Don Haskins Center] at graduation and I said, 'We've got to take a picture of the exes with our shirts.' It just gives me a big kick to see that picture and that we're all UTEP [alumni] now."

Marcos Lizárraga's father, retired physician Alejandro Lizárraga, graduated from Texas Western College (now UTEP) in 1954 and set an example for the next two generations of Lizárragas to follow.

As a child, Marcos Lizárraga remembered walking with his grandfather along the hills on Schuster Avenue on the edge of campus, and riding in the car when his mother drove down University Avenue – before the Union Building was constructed – to pick up her younger sister, who also attended Texas Western College.

"I've always been familiar with the campus and just knew that [UTEP was] where I was going to go," Marcos Lizárraga said.

While at UTEP, Marcos Lizárraga married Cecilia "Cissy" Lizárraga, an education major who also graduated in 1979 and now is a teacher in the El Paso Independent School District.

The couple credits their UTEP education with allowing them and their children to pursue successful careers.

Their second daughter, Marisa Lizárraga, is an assistant U.S. attorney in New Mexico and the first of their children to graduate from UTEP.

Marisa Lizárraga earned her psychology degree in 2006 after only three years of study. She took advantage of the opportunities UTEP offered to prepare for the Law School Admission Test (LSAT) by participating in the Patricia and Paul Yetter Law School Preparation Institute at the University in the summer of 2005.

"This was an excellent program and I'm confident I would not have gotten into [the University of] Michigan Law School without it," Marisa Lizárraga said.

In 2008, Elizabeth Zamir Lizárraga graduated from UTEP with a degree in accounting, which she said laid the foundation for a successful career in the oil field services sector.

"UTEP means a quality education with great professors and staff who encouraged and helped me reach my goals," said Elizabeth Zamir Lizárraga, a senior business development manager for Halliburton in Houston. "It feels very special knowing my entire family is a UTEP legacy. We all share similar memories and moments from our time at UTEP spanned across multiple generations and years."

Having supportive parents also was one of the major reasons the three sisters decided to pick UTEP.

After spending nine months in Paris working as an *au pair*, Vanessa Lizárraga was ready to come home and finish her degree.

"UTEP to me means community, family, honor and pride," Vanessa Lizárraga said. "It is very exciting for us. We all share a common love and appreciation for UTEP." 📍



James Michael Hinds (B.A. '65)
San Jose, California; May 17, 2014

Walter Joseph Reeves Sr. (BBA '89)
El Paso; July 1, 2014

Ruby Grant (B.A. '37)
El Paso; July 26, 2014

Daniel Victor McGuire (BBA '79)
El Paso; Aug. 1, 2014

Rita M. Nadeyeff Sanich (B.A. '66; M.Ed. '72)
El Paso; Aug. 14, 2014

Doris B. Crowe (B.A. '86)
Canton, Georgia; Aug. 23, 2014

Virginia Ruth Lackey Moore (B.S.Ed. '69)
Little Rock, Arkansas; Aug. 25, 2014

Juan Alfredo "Freddy" Martinez (BBA '08)
El Paso; Aug. 27, 2014

Jose M. Acosta (B.A. '75)
El Paso; Sept. 1, 2014

Mary Margaret Webb Davis (B.A. '52)
Dallas; Sept. 1, 2014

Robert Resendez (BBA '77)
El Paso; Sept. 1, 2014

Jerry Herman Richter (BBA '61)
Del Rio, Texas; Sept. 3, 2014

Nicholas R. Tate (B.A. '59)
Niagara Falls, New York; Sept. 4, 2014

Lu Etta H. Johnson (B.A. '60)
Alvin, Texas; Sept. 5, 2014

Patricia Oliver Isbell (B.A. '55; M.Ed. '72)
San Angelo, Texas; Sept. 6, 2014

Tencha Vela (B.S.Ed. '75)
El Paso; Sept. 6, 2014

Stanley O. Kingery (M.A. '76)
Austin, Texas; Sept. 14, 2014

Ruben Barcena (B.A. '58; M.Ed. '69)
El Paso; Sept. 16, 2014

Angela "Angie" Finley (BBA '74; MBA '78)
El Paso; Sept. 17, 2014

Carol E. Pearson (B.S.Ed. '75)
Austin, Texas; Sept. 20, 2014

Samuel Gale Pendergrast (B.A. '57)
Abilene, Texas; Sept. 20, 2014

James Massey Crowe (BBA '72)
Mansfield, Texas; Sept. 23, 2014

Irma T. Pantoja (B.A. '60)
El Paso; Sept. 25, 2014

Pamela Lynn Cecilia Elizabeth Hahn (B.A. '91)
Grants Pass, Oregon; Sept. 27, 2014

Dianne Brooks McDonald Barbee (B.M. '66)
Greensboro, North Carolina; Oct. 2, 2014

Theodore Edward Wasko (M.A. '70; M.Ed. '73)
El Paso; Oct. 2, 2014

William Russell "Bill" Sanford II (B.A. '57)
Morgan Hill, California; Oct. 4, 2014

David Lowe Mott (B.S. '58)
Las Cruces, New Mexico; Oct. 5, 2014

Angel Catalina Nuckolls (BMS '09)
Houston; Oct. 5, 2014

Robert Charles Helm (B.S.Ed. '73)
El Paso; Oct. 7, 2014

Margaret Maureen Chaves (M.Ed. '87)
El Paso; Oct. 11, 2014

Walter N. Mott (MPA '83)
El Paso; Oct. 11, 2014

Arthur J. Shera (M.A. '59)
El Paso; Oct. 12, 2014

Eugene P. Rister (BBA '40)
El Paso; Oct. 13, 2014

Roselyn B. Holloway (MSN '84)
Lubbock, Texas; Oct. 15, 2014

James W. Kirby (MSCE '68)
El Paso; Oct. 15, 2014

Mary Irene Johnson Vowell (B.A. '50)
El Paso; Oct. 15, 2014

William "Bill" Bradford Williams (BSMI '52)
Grand Junction, Colorado; Oct. 15, 2014

William "Bill" Gebhard Adorno (BSCE '58)
Austin, Texas; Oct. 16, 2014

Emil Jaroslav Michal Jr. (M.S. '73)
El Paso; Oct. 16, 2014

Miriam Feinberg Lait (B.A. '57; M.Ed. '81)
El Paso; Oct. 19, 2014

Ernest Valtierra (BBA '82)
Chamberino, New Mexico; Oct. 19, 2014

Wilfred "Bill" Charbonneau (B.A. '71; M.Ed. '73)
La Marque, Texas; Oct. 21, 2014

Delia Bustamante Zoffman (B.S. '44)
Tucson, Arizona; Oct. 21, 2014

Gudrun "Lupe" Gundersen (B.S. '81)
El Paso; Oct. 22, 2014

Beverly Bauer Rodriguez (M.Ed. '75)
El Paso; Oct. 22, 2014

William "Ed" Martch (BSCE '54)
Belton, Texas; Oct. 23, 2014

Frieda May Ward (B.A. '57)
El Paso; Oct. 23, 2014

Maria del Carmen Troche Zimmerman (B.S.Ed. '71)
El Paso; Oct. 23, 2014

Mark Henry Adams (BBA '77)
El Paso; Oct. 24, 2014

Robert "Bob" C. White (B.A. '75)
Fort Worth, Texas; Oct. 24, 2014

William "Jerry" Rollins (BSCE '76)
Chandler, Arizona; Oct. 26, 2014

Betty Grigsby Knodell (B.S.Ed. '69)
Austin, Texas; Oct. 29, 2014

Charles M. Putnam (B.S. '74)
El Paso; Oct. 30, 2014

Martha Beatriz Uzeta Dominguez (B.A. '49)
El Paso; Oct. 31, 2014

Maurice J. Grenier (BBA '80)
El Paso; Oct. 31, 2014

Robert Parker White (BIS '97; M.Ed. '03)
El Paso; Nov. 1, 2014

Reynaldo T. Fabela (B.S.Ed. '75; M.Ed. '88)
El Paso; Nov. 2, 2014

Javier Aguirre (BBA '74)
El Paso; Nov. 5, 2014

David Allen Trout (B.M. '82)
Lubbock, Texas; Nov. 6, 2014

Eleanor I. Carroll (B.A. '56)
El Paso; Nov. 10, 2014

Peter G. Hernandez Sr. (B.M. '56)
San Antonio, Texas; Nov. 12, 2014

William "Bill" Castillo (B.A. '63)
El Paso; Nov. 14, 2014

Aurelio Ray Barron (BBA '67)
Arlington, Texas; Nov. 15, 2014

Kathryn G. "Katy" Crawford (B.S.Ed. '65)
El Paso; Nov. 16, 2014

Pete Payan Jr. (BBA '71)
El Paso; Nov. 16, 2014

Friou P. Jones (B.A. '64)
Sarasota, Florida; Nov. 18, 2014

Maria Elena "Mary" Sernas (BIS '03)
El Paso; Nov. 20, 2014

Hugo Cadena Blanco (B.A. '92)
El Paso; Nov. 22, 2014

Adalberto "Al" Franco (B.A. '51; M.A. '54)
El Paso; Nov. 22, 2014

Jolene Rutherford (B.A. '67)
Albuquerque, New Mexico; Dec. 29, 2014

James Joseph Jancu (B.A. '95)
Sydney, Australia; Feb. 16, 2015

1960s

Arthur C. "Art" Karger (BBA '66), former Lovington, New Mexico, basketball coach and administrator, was inducted into the New Mexico Activities Association Hall of Fame 2014 Class. Karger coached the Lovington High School boys program from 1982-89 and led the boys' basketball team, the Wildcats, to a state title in 1983. He was a two-time New Mexico Coach of the Year in 1985 and 1989.

Richard Lambrecht (B.M. '69) was named the 2015 Texas Bandmaster of the Year by the Texas Music Educators Association. The retired band director shared the award with his wife, Barbara. This is the first time in the award's 60-year history that a married couple has been recognized.

Bradley Roe (B.S. '64), former owner of Roe Engineering LC, was appointed by the El Paso City Council to serve on the Public Service Board. He has more than 48 years of experience in construction and design.

Rose Schecter (B.S.Ed. '67), of Schecter & Blumenfeld, was named the president of the El Paso Holocaust Museum and Study Center Board of Directors.

1970s

Margaret Arreola (B.A. '72), of El Paso, was named director of the David L. Carrasco Job Corps Center, which provides no-cost education and career technical training that helps young people ages 16 through 24 improve the quality of their lives.

John Birkelbach (BBA '71), an attorney at Mounce, Green, Myers, Safi, Paxson & Galatza law firm, has been honored as a 2014 Super Lawyer by Texas Monthly magazine. The Super Lawyer distinction is awarded to five percent of all Texas lawyers. Birkelbach focuses his practice in real estate law and business law.

Rosemary Castillo (B.A. '75), president and CEO of Bienvenir Senior Health Services, was inducted into the El Paso Business Hall of Fame, which has honored El Paso's most distinguished businessmen and women since 1995. Bienvenir is a community-based program developed in El Paso in 1986 to render services to the elderly of El Paso.

Edith Eger (B.A. and B.S. '70; M.A. '74), former El Pasoan and Holocaust survivor, was featured in the one-hour CNN documentary "Voices of Auschwitz," which commemorated the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz. Eger spent one year in the concentration camp where both of her parents were killed. Today, Eger is a successful psychologist and motivational speaker.

Carl H. Green (B.A. '73), with law firm Mounce, Green, Myers, Safi, Paxson & Galatza received the William Duncan-George McAlmon Civility Award from the El Paso Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA). This award is bestowed to an El Paso ABOTA member for his or her dedication to professionalism, civility and ethics that exemplify character and commitment to the profession and administration of justice. Green has been designated a Texas Super Lawyer by Texas Monthly magazine every year since 2003.

Samuel Martinez (BBA '72) authored an oral history of the landmark class action lawsuit Perez vs. the FBI, where 311 Hispanic agents successfully sued the Federal Bureau of Investigation for discrimination. The book, titled "Systemic Evil," recounts details of the trial that took place in El Paso in 1988. Martinez is a former FBI agent and one of the 311 who joined the lawsuit.

Gloria McKee-Lopez (BSN '74; MSN '83) has been appointed assistant dean for undergraduate education at UTEP's School of Nursing. Her research interests have concentrated on health disparities among underserved populations.

Jackie Morgan-Tomko (B.S.Ed. '70; M.Ed. '74) was the recipient of Beta Sigma Phi's 2015 First Lady of El Paso Award. Since 1946, the sorority has named an outstanding civic leader to receive the honor.

1980s

Denise Castillo Rhodes (BBA '82), executive vice president and chief financial officer of Texas Medical Center in Houston, was named one of Houston's 50 Most Influential Women of 2014 by Houston Woman Magazine.

Marta Escalante (B.A. '80) retired from the Dallas Independent School District in May 2014. Escalante leaves a 32-year career of bilingual education that included eight years of teaching in El Paso.

Lucy Garcia (BBA '82) joined WestStar Bank as vice president and trust officer in the bank's wealth management division administering trusts and estate settlements. Garcia brings 30 years of experience that includes serving as UTEP's director of gift planning.

Carol Johnson (M.A. '81), retired local business owner, was named to the board of directors of WestStar Bank. She previously served as a director of WestStar Bank from 1995 to 1999.

Rosemary Neill (MPA '81) received the El Paso Historical Society's 2014 Chris P. Fox Memorial Award for outstanding contributions to historical

awareness. Neill received the award based on her efforts in the restoration and placement of the 1886 Lady Justice statue in the El Paso County Courthouse atrium. Established in 1980, this annual award is given to individuals who have contributed most to promote El Paso History.

Richard Turner (BSEE. '88; MBA '94) was appointed vice president of corporate development at El Paso Electric. Turner, joined the utility company in 1988.

Dennis Vásquez (B.S. '83) has been named superintendent of the Petroglyph National Monument in New Mexico. Vásquez is an El Paso native and 36-year veteran with the National Park Service.

1990s

Diane De Hoyos (M.S. '94), UTEP's director of purchasing, won the 2014 Hispanic Business Advocate of the Year award from the Texas Association of Mexican American Chambers of Commerce.

Sally Deitch (BSN '90; MSN '94), market chief operating officer of Sierra Providence Health Network and CEO of Sierra Providence East Medical Center of El Paso, has been elected to the Texas Hospital Association's Board of Trustees. She took office Jan. 1 for a three-year term.

Edward Escudero (BBA '92), president and CEO of High Desert Capital LLC, was named to the Board of Directors for TG, a nonprofit corporation that promotes educational access and success so that students can realize their college and career dreams. In December 2014, Escudero was inducted into the El Paso Business Hall of Fame. In January 2015, Escudero was appointed vice chairman of WestStar Bank. In February 2015, Escudero joined the board of El Paso Electric Company as the vice chairman.

Renard Johnson (BBA '95), president and CEO of Management and Engineering Technologies International Inc. (METI), headquartered in El Paso, joined the Board of Directors for nonprofit organization TG. TG offers resources to help students and families plan and prepare for college, learn the basics of money management and repay their federal student loans.

Richard Pineda (M.A. '98), director of the Sam Donaldson Center for Communication Studies and associate professor of communication at UTEP, was awarded the 2014 Córdova-Puchot Scholar of the Year award during last year's National Communication Association meeting in November. The award honors a faculty member who has achieved a high level of excellence in research, teaching, service and advocacy.



Rob Pridemore (BBA '97) was appointed as president of the El Paso office of USI Southwest, an insurance brokerage and consulting company that specializes in property-casualty, employee benefits, personal risk services, retirement programs and specialty solutions.

Ginger Pineda Raya (B.A. '99; MPA '03), an administrator in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso, was selected as a member of the Leadership Texas Class of 2015. Now in its 33rd consecutive year, Leadership Texas is a program of Leadership Women, a nonprofit social enterprise headquartered in Dallas.

Lorena Schall (BSN '93) was promoted to labor and delivery unit director at Providence Memorial Hospital. Schall began working at the hospital in 1993 as a nurse extern in the Women's Services Department.

Alma Terrazas (BSW '90) was promoted to market chief compliance officer for the Sierra Providence Health Network (SPHN). She has been with SPHN since 1998 and has served as the compliance officer for both Providence Memorial Hospital and Sierra Medical Center.

Leslie Wingo (BBA '96) became president and CEO of the ad agency Sanders/Wingo. Wingo, who is based in the agency's Austin office, joined the company in 1995 and became a partner in 2001.

2000s

Marshall Barclay (MBA '05) was honored as financial planner of the year for Lincoln Financial Advisors, a broker/dealer and registered investment advisor. He specializes in investment, retirement, business ownership and estate planning. Barclay is a certified financial planner and has a chartered retirement planning counselor designation.

Cynthia Carrasco (B.A. '02) was named the Inspector General of Indiana by governor of the state Mike Pence. Before moving into this position, Carrasco served as the executive director for the Office of the Inspector General and the Indiana State Ethics Commission.

Martha Carrasco (BBA '00), executive director of the human resources division of the Canutillo Independent School District, has been named the District VI Representative on the executive board of the Texas Association of School Personnel Administrators. The organization is for human resources professionals in public school districts in the state and is an affiliate of the American Association of School Personnel Administrators.

Erik Cazares (BSN '00) was promoted to assistant chief nursing officer at Sierra Providence East Medical Center. Cazares joined Sierra Providence Health Network in 2001 as a registered nurse in the Renal Transplant Unit at Sierra Medical Center.

Lydia Cenicerros (BBA '03) has been promoted to assistant vice president for treasury management at Capital Bank. Cenicerros joined Capital Bank in 2012 and has 10 years of financial services experience in banking and accounting.

Christopher Chacon (BSN '05) was promoted to director of peri-operative services at Sierra Providence East Medical Center. Chacon has been with the hospital since it opened in 2008 and has served in multiple roles during the past seven years.

Lianée Fernández-Rios (BBA '00) was promoted to a vice president position with Chase Bank's commercial bank. She will be responsible for business development and management of business relationships in El Paso and New Mexico.

Joe Garcia (BSN '06; MSN '08), has been named the University Medical Center (UMC) of El Paso's new chief nursing officer. Garcia, a native El Pasoan, has worked at UMC for 22 years.

Mayra Molina (BBA '00) was appointed as the independent auditor of the El Paso Independent School District by the district's Board of Managers.

Kathy Mullins (BSN '05) was named director of infection prevention and control for Providence Memorial Hospital.

Hector Olvera (M.S. '02; Ph.D. '06), director of UTEP's Nursing and Health Center Leadership Institute and research assistant professor at the University's Center for Environmental Resource Management, has been named a JPB Environmental Health Fellow with Harvard's School of Public Health. The program was established to promote a new generation of environmental health scholars to address health disparities in disadvantaged communities.

Paula Powell (BMS '09; MPA '11) has been named assistant director for the Parks and Recreation Department in the city of El Paso. Powell has held multiple positions during the 19 years she has been employed by the city.

Manuel Quiñones (MBA '03) joined construction firm MGB Group as a vice president. He will focus on project management operations, client relations and business development in Texas and New Mexico.

Samuel Trimble (B.A. '07) joined Lone Star Title Company of El Paso Inc. as the director of corporate marketing and communications. He brings seven years of experience in the El Paso real estate market.

Susanne Van Weelden (M.S. '08) an administrator in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso, was selected as a member of the Leadership Texas Class of 2015. Van Weelden is one of 80 professionals selected from across the state to participate in the longest-running women's leadership development program in the U.S., a program of nonprofit organization Leadership Women.

Marisa Ybarra (B.A. '05), a trial attorney with Ray, McChristian & Jeans PC, was featured in Fortune magazine's second annual edition of Legal Leaders, Women Leaders in Law 2014. Ybarra has represented Fortune 500 companies in a variety of business disputes and discrimination and employment cases.

2010s

Ben Fyffe (MPA '11), cultural programs supervisor at City of El Paso Museums and Cultural Affairs Department, was elected to the board of Texas for the Arts. The nonpartisan group focuses on the development and implementation of public policy supporting arts and cultural industry throughout Texas.

Andres Payan (BFA '11) was appointed coordinator of the Stanlee and Gerald Ruben Center for the Visual Arts' temporary art space project, CUADRO. The project is a collaboration with the City of El Paso's Department of Museums and Cultural Affairs and the El Paso Community Foundation.

Sara Rueda (B.A. '12) has been named a project manager for El Paso ad agency Mithoff Burton Partners. Rueda will be responsible for project production for the agency's clients, serving in the project management department.

Kenneth "Trey" Stice (B.S. '10; BSN '12) was named the unit director of the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) for Providence Memorial Hospital and Sierra Medical Center. Stice joined Providence Medical Hospital in 2012 as a registered nurse in the NICU.



ALBERT "AL" ROSENBERG

By Daniel Perez • Photo by Laura Trejo

Albert Rosenberg's stoic demeanor belied an extraordinary life of service. The former University of Texas at El Paso professor of sociology died Dec. 22, 2014, at the age of 96.

Rosenberg fled Germany to escape Nazi persecution in the 1930s, but returned as part of an elite Army psychological warfare unit whose work demoralized the enemy. Among his toughest missions was one in April 1945 when his team spent a month interviewing survivors of the Buchenwald concentration camp.

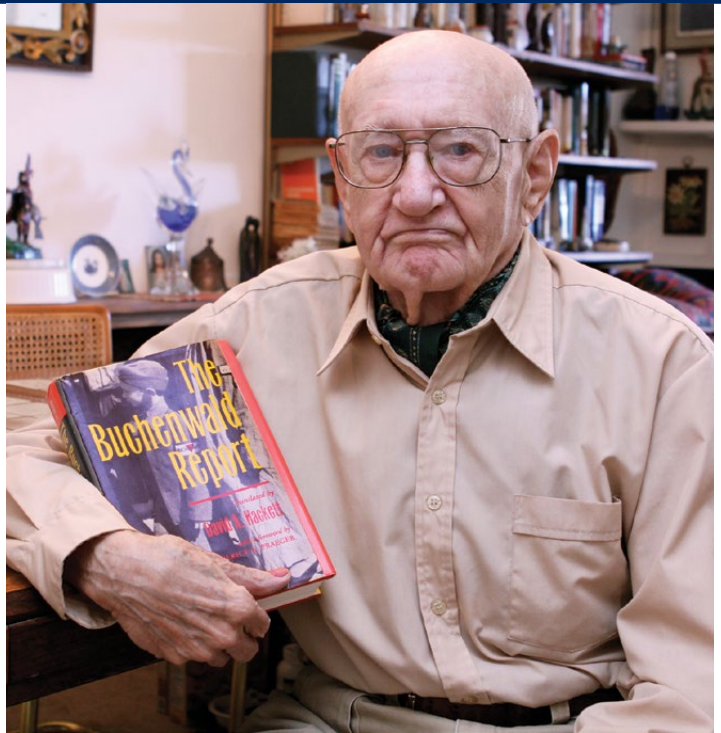
He earned his graduate degree in community organization from the University of Pittsburgh after World War II and used his skills to bridge racial divides in communities such as Baltimore, Chicago, Detroit and New Orleans, and as an urban renewal expert in cities in Austria and Belgium.

An impromptu stop at UTEP in 1980 led to the University hiring him to build its community organization curriculum. He stayed 10 years and was remembered by his students as approachable, involved, encouraging and professional. He later helped the University develop what has become the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute and worked for Hospice of El Paso.

Howard Daudistel, Ph.D., interim provost, has fond memories of working with Rosenberg, who was respected by his peers as a teacher and a person.

"Al brought unique experiences to the job that enhanced his instruction and his commitment to serving people," Daudistel said.

Barbara Fredrickson, Rosenberg's daughter, said her father loved



working with the social work students and maintained relationships with many of them.

Rosenberg is survived by his daughter, son-in-law Ronald Fredrickson, stepdaughter Lourdes Diaz Rosenberg, her son Andreas Rosenberg, and relatives Edmond and Lenore Cahn, who sponsored Rosenberg's immigration to America in 1937. ➤



CHAPTERS & NETWORKS CONNECT ALUMNI ACROSS THE WORLD

By Rachel Anna Neff, Ph. D.

The University of Texas at El Paso Alumni Association is a great way to stay connected to your fellow Miners while networking and socializing. By joining the Alumni Association, you can continue to enjoy the family-friendly culture of UTEP and reminisce about the memories you had as a student.

There are academic chapters for the College of Business Administration and the College of Engineering, and geographic chapters and networks throughout Texas in Austin, Dallas, El Paso, Houston and San Antonio. There is even an alumni chapter in Juárez, Mexico.

There also are informal groups throughout the U.S. in places like Chicago, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, Phoenix, San Diego, Seattle and Washington, D.C.

Special interest groups such as the UTEP Black Alumni Network (UBAN); Young Alumni; and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT) offer another way to connect with former Miners.

Official Miner Contacts are persons who are willing to answer questions and provide resources to alumni who have recently moved to the contact's city. As the Miner Nation continues to grow nationally and internationally, Official Miner Contacts have become increasingly important in helping alumni transition to their newfound city.

In addition to chapters and special interest groups, the Office of Alumni Relations is creating a new model to engage more alumni with UTEP. This new model is comprised of alumni networks – groups that are less formal than a chapter, but still provide opportunities for alumni engagement, community service, Miner Mixers, athletic viewing parties and career networking events.

If you are interested in joining, starting or volunteering for an alumni chapter or network in your city, please visit alumni.utep.edu, email alumni@utep.edu, or call 915-747-8600 or 1-866-GO-MINERS. ➤



TELL US
what you think!

UTEP Magazine is interested in your feedback about the magazine. Let us know what you like best and what you could live without, and we'll do what we can to incorporate your suggestions and comments into future issues. You can complete the survey online at utepmagazine.utep.edu/survey, or complete the form below and send it to us at:

▶ **Email:** univcomm@utep.edu

▶ **Fax:** 915-747-5969

▶ **Mail:** UTEP Magazine Editor, Hertzog Building,
500 W. University Ave., El Paso, Texas 79968

Thank you for your feedback. **Go Miners!**

1. Why do you read UTEP Magazine?

(you may select more than one answer)

- To keep up with what's happening at my alma mater
- To learn more about UTEP so I can share it with others
- To find out what my former classmates are doing
- To learn something new
- To be entertained
- Other

2. How much time do you spend reading each issue of the magazine?

- Less than 15 minutes
- 15-30 minutes
- 30 minutes to 1 hour
- 1-2 hours
- More than 2 hours

3. In terms of number of pages, is the magazine:

- Too long
- Too short
- Just right

4. Is the font size:

- Too big
- Too small
- Just right

5. In the Winter 2015 and Spring/Summer 2015 issues of the magazine, which of the following stories did you enjoy reading?

(you may select more than one answer)

- "Celebrating a Century of Campus Partnerships"
Winter 2015, pages 4-7
- "Opera Bhutan's U.S. Premiere Celebrates UTEP Centennial" – Winter 2015, pages 14-17
- "Immigration Experts Predicted 2014 Border Crisis"
Winter 2015, pages 30-31
- "UTEP Ranked Among The Nation's Top 10 Schools"
Winter 2015, pages 36-37
- "Football Team Ends Winning Season With Bowl Game"
Winter 2015, pages 46-47
- "Microbiologist Battles Ebola on the Front Line"
Winter 2015, page 59
- "A Miner Experience: UTEP Students Get the Most Out of University Life" – Spring/Summer 2015, pages 10-13
- "Longtime Political Science Professor and Human Rights Champion Retires" – Spring/Summer 2015, pages 16-19
- "UTEP Forges Closer Ties With NASA"
Spring/Summer 2015, pages 36-37
- "Sophomore Standout: Aiyanna Stiverne is Sprinter to Watch" – Spring/Summer 2015, pages 42-43

You can complete the survey online at
utepmagazine.utep.edu/survey



Reader Survey Continued...

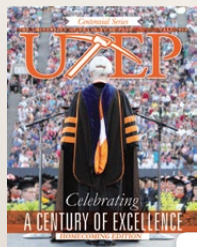
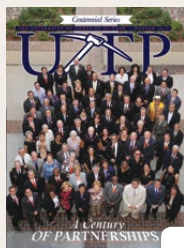
6. In general, what topics do you prefer to read about in UTEP Magazine? (you may select more than one answer)

- UTEP research
- UTEP athletics
- UTEP alumni and what they are doing now
- UTEP students and their accomplishments
- UTEP faculty and their accomplishments
- UTEP history
- UTEP events and campus updates
- Something else:

7. Each issue of the magazine contains a vertical or horizontal strip advertisement for each college, as well as one for athletics and one for alumni. Do you find these ads useful?

- Yes, I always look at them and learn something interesting.
- I look at some of them and think some are worthwhile.
- I skip over them.
- I've never noticed them.

8. Please rank the last 4 magazine covers in order of preference, with 1 being your favorite and 4 your least favorite:



9. How would you rate the magazine overall on a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 being the best?

- 1 2 3 4 5

10. What do you like best about UTEP Magazine?

11. What would you like to see changed or added to UTEP Magazine?

12. If the magazine was available in a digital version, would you read the digital version?

- Yes, I'd read the digital version instead of the print version.
- Yes, I'd read the digital version but would like to continue to receive the print version.
- I don't know. I would be willing to try the digital version.
- No, I would not read the digital version.

13. Additional comments:

Tell us about yourself:

14. How old are you?

- 18-30 31-45 46-60 61-75 75+

15. In what decade did you graduate from UTEP?

I am not a UTEP graduate

16. What is your gender? M F

17. In what city and state do you live?

18. Are you a (select as many as apply):

- UTEP alumnus/alumna
- UTEP faculty/staff
- UTEP student
- UTEP donor
- El Paso community member
- other

MINERS AROUND THE WORLD

The University of Texas at El Paso asked Facebook fans to submit photos of themselves wearing UTEP gear during their travels around the world. Here are some of the photos submitted.



1. Juan Carlos Muñoz, an industrial engineering master's student, walks the Great Wall of China while interning in Beijing.

2. Erika Martinez (BIS elementary education, 2012), left, and her daughter Nadia Rivas (B.A. multimedia journalism, 2014) proudly wear their UTEP gear while they enjoy the cool waves and warm sun in Cancún, Mexico.

3. "Picks up!" to Gerard "Rod" Walsh (B.A. radio and television, 1974) and his brother Stephen (BBA management, 1981), who experienced the magical vista of the Cliffs of Moher in County Clare, Ireland.

4. Christina Ramirez Weshahi (BIS elementary education, 2000) and her husband, Fadi, journeyed to the prehistoric monument Stonehenge in Wiltshire, England.

5. The VanNosdale family show off their Miner pride during a climb of the Mayan ruins of Belize. From left, the UTEP alumni are: Annette (B.A. organizational and corporate communications, 2009); Rebecca VanNosdale Bejarano (BBA marketing, 2008); Jim (B.S.Ed. all levels health and P.E., 1978); Maureen (B.S.Ed. elementary education, 1980); Carli (BBA marketing, 2010); and her fiancé, Joey Harvey. 🍷

To submit a Miners Around the World photo for possible inclusion in UTEP Magazine, send the photo and caption information to univcomm@utep.edu.



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